

Huskers Illustrated

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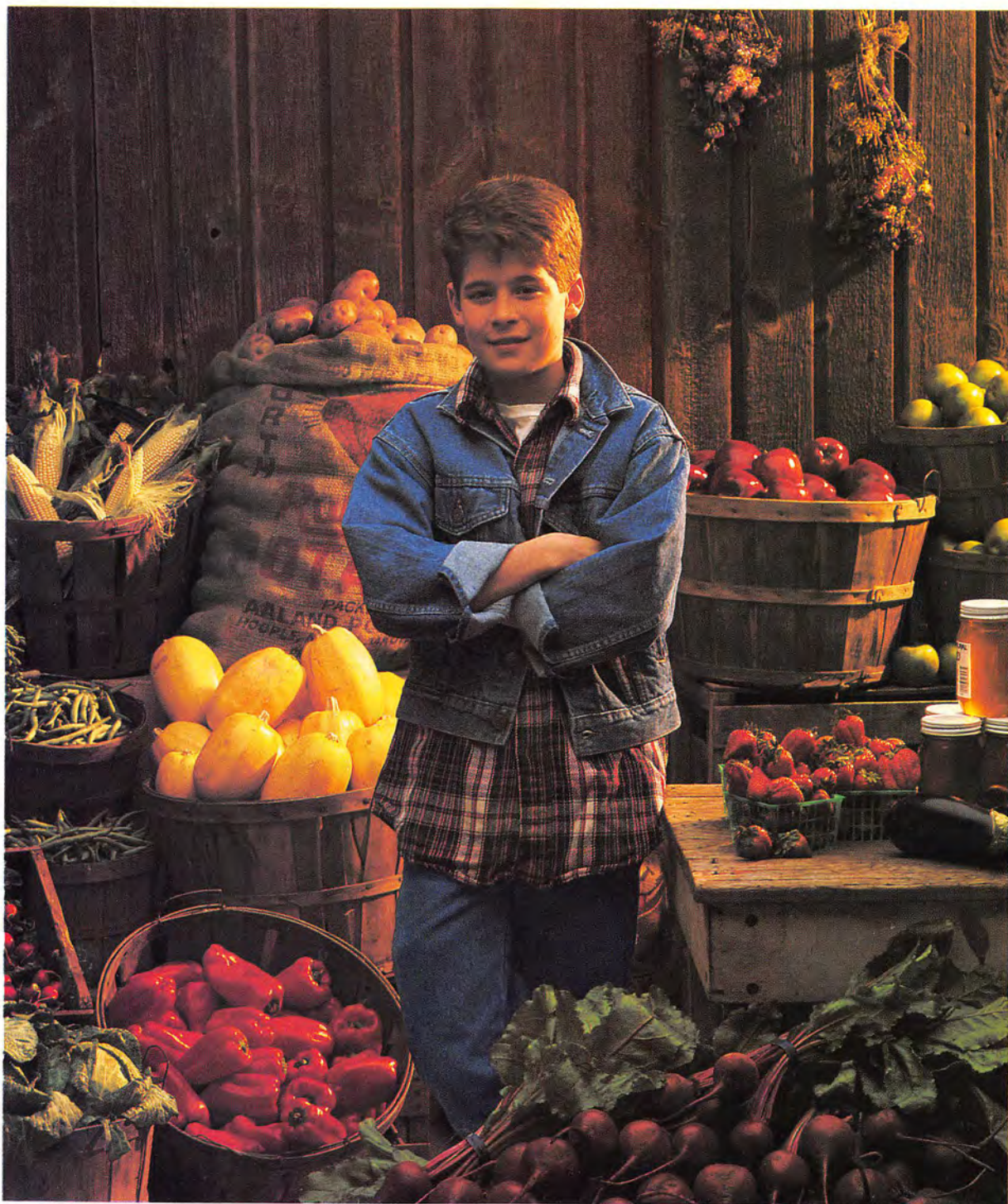
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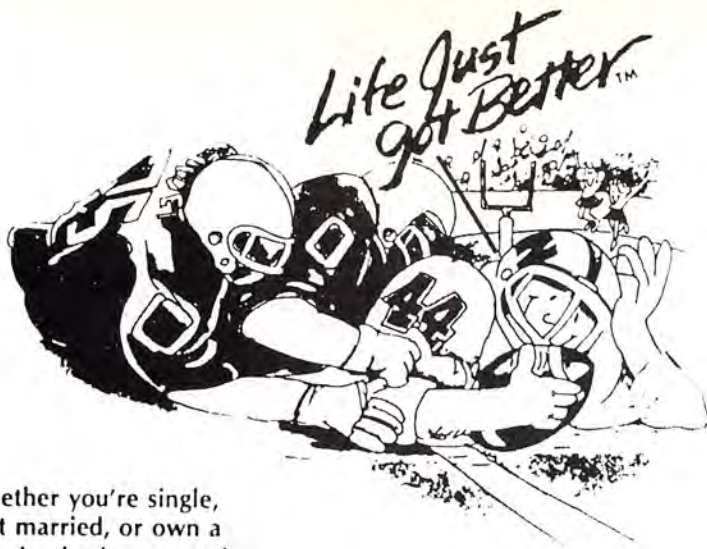
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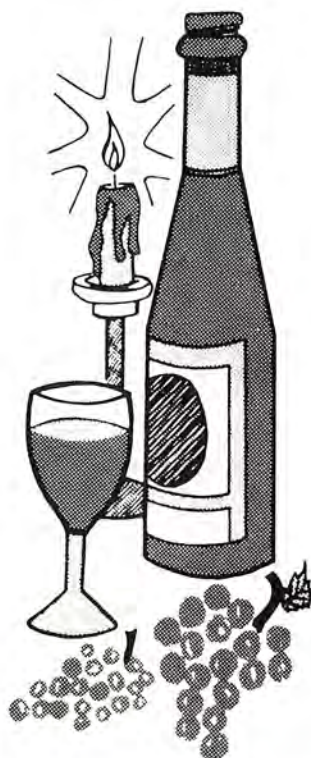
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LETTERS

COME ON DOWN

Dear Huskers:

I recently read that the Huskers will start a two-year series with Baylor. I would like to know if both games will be in Lincoln or if the Huskers will give Nebraska fans in Texas a break.

Tim Smith
Jacksonville, Tex.

Tim: Baylor is currently scheduled to play Nebraska Sept. 15, 1990, in Lincoln, but no return game has been set. The Huskers will play Texas Tech at Memorial Stadium in 1993 before going to Lubbock in 1994. Next year's non-conference schedule is as follows: 9/9 Northern Illinois in Lincoln; 9/16 Utah in Lincoln; 9/23 Minnesota at Minneapolis; and 9/30 Oregon State in Lincoln.

BIG RED SOLDIER

Dear Huskers:

I'm writing again just as I did this time last year. While overseas, *Huskers Illustrated* keeps me very much informed. Since last season, I have found several guys from Nebraska, two of whom are from Lincoln. Due to Nebraska's popularity, many Husker games are shown on TV here. All of us over here want to wish the best for the team. We will be rooting throughout the season. Nebraska means a lot to us, and we are all anxious to get back. Good luck Tom, and Go Big Red!

PFC Jeff Haight
U.S. Army
Freidburg, West Germany

KEEP IN TOUCH

Dear Huskers:

I would like to have my name and address and phone number listed in an attempt to get in touch with other Husker fans in the Kentucky and Southern Indiana area who might be interested in possibly starting a Husker fan club in the area or maybe just getting together at times to chew the fat about our Huskers.

I do make a trip up to Nebraska about once every year or two to see a game, so I might be able to help other interested parties go to the games also. They can make letters ad-

dressed to the name and address that follows or if they choose, they may call.

Thanks again for your excellent magazine and on an even more excellent football program. Good luck Huskers in '88.

Danny Koleski
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HONEST POLICY

Dear Huskers:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your assistance in keeping me abreast of the Nebraska sports scene. As I attended the University for 12 years, it holds a dear spot in my life. It is even more rewarding when you consider the current situation of at least two opponents, Texas A&M and Oklahoma. At least we can proudly say we maintain our national prominence while maintaining academic honesty standards. Accordingly, let's hope this is the year when honesty is finally rewarded with a national championship.

David Joy
Carterville, Ill.

LIKE WHO?

Dear Huskers:

Please sign me up for a one-year subscription to *Huskers Illustrated* as I have been a Husker fan for some 15 years. Also, do you put out Nebraska team player football cards like Oklahoma does?

V. Bender
Fond du Lac, Wisc.

V: You might be thinking of a project sponsored by local police in conjunction with Oklahoma's football program. Some time ago the police printed player and coach cards that included messages on good citizenship. The cards were given away free by officers as a public relations gesture. *Huskers Illustrated* has not done that, but it would be interesting to see if the Lincoln police might.

PRO BIG RED

Dear Huskers:

I think you publish an excellent magazine; it's first-rate. I'm always ex-

cited when I receive my *Huskers Illustrated*. Being here in Arizona, I don't get to hear much about the No. 1 Huskers unless the national news has something or when my father sends me articles from the *Omaha World-Herald*, but those still don't match *Huskers Illustrated*.

I was also wondering if when the NFL finally makes all its cuts, are you going to have something on the Huskers who made their respective NFL teams, and who were unfortunate?

I would really be interested in seeing where each Husker is playing, so when they play on Sunday I could look for our great ex-Husker players.

In closing, I would like to say keep up the first-rate work and the best magazine to be put out by anyone in the country.

James Adams
Phoenix, Ariz.

James: Thanks for the suggestion, and we'll certainly pursue it.

JV SCHEDULE

Dear Huskers:

I enjoy your magazine very much. Keep up the good work. I was wondering if you could send me the schedule for this year's freshman games for football.

Don Hampton
Mullen, Neb.

Don: You'll find a recap of the St. Thomas game in this issue, and here's a rundown of the others: 9/19 vs. Bethany JV; 10/7 vs. Air Force JV; 10/21 vs. Nebraska-Omaha JV; and 11/4 vs. Waldorf Junior College. All games are in Lincoln and scheduled to kick off at 1 p.m.

KNOX, KNOX

Dear Huskers:

I was quite surprised at watching the Texas A&M game that Tyreese Knox didn't play at all when I thought he was expected to make a big contribution this season. Is he still on the team, or is there a problem? It has been a long time since Nebraska has had a big, bruising tailback, and I was looking forward to great things from Mr. Knox. Also, I have not heard

much of Leodis Flowers, and he was another runner that was in the news a lot. What's happened to him?

Keith McKee
Conway, Ark.

Keith: Knox is still with the team. However, he was bothered by nagging injuries early in preseason drills and has been a little slow in regaining his

old form. And, yes, Flowers is still with the team, having spent much of the early season No. 4 on the I-back depth chart behind Ken Clark, Terry Rodgers and Knox.

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Griffin's NU career has stretched over five years and three different positions.

serve as the boundaries.

Playing their own version of football, which is essentially "tackle the man with the ball," these howling pre-middle school youngsters are the forerunners of such players as Nebraska defensive tackle Willie Griffin.

"We used to call it the 'Monroe Vista Street Game,'" Griffin remembers with a laugh. "Of course, it wasn't organized. We called it 'slaughter' and it was basically a mess.

"If you were lucky, you got tackled along the curb and landed in the

grass. If not, you usually went home with a bloody nose and some real dandy scratches and bruises.

"Looking back at it, I must have been crazy to play like that, but it must have had some advantages; it produced Chris Hale (starting cornerback for Southern Cal), Paul Hewitt (starting tailback for San Diego State) and, of course, me...all from the same group."

Griffin, who has had a propensity to pack on weight even as a youngster, admits, "Football is the game I love to play, but every time I give it a try, I seem to have an extra obstacle or two to clear before I can get on with it."

His first taste of organized football came when he was in the seventh

er (former Colorado quarterback) in our high school record book," Griffin claims. "But, I was big and strong and the coach had other plans for me."

By his sophomore year, young Griffin was one of his high school team's co-captains, a job he held three consecutive seasons. He says of his schoolboy coach Richard Watson, "He let me have a lot of freedom. He was a smart guy because I found out that freedom carried a lot of responsibility with it."

Even more recently, the weight problem plagued Griffin. After having bounced back and forth from offense to defense, he popped up last spring as the No. 1 left defensive tackle. When he reported for preseason practice he dropped to No. 3. Why?

"I feel my strength is against the run, and Coach McBride has been working hard on my pass rush. My legs feel good, and the extra conditioning gassers Coach Osborne has been putting us through after practice have helped."

grade and, even then, he had to pay an extra price or two. He was so large he had to move up to compete with the eighth-graders, a team appropriately dubbed the Junior Pee Wees.

Even for the Junior Pee Wees, Willie was too large for the 150-pound limit. He recalls, "I had to eat celery and sit in a hot tub for two days to make weight. But when I got there I was the starting tight end and defensive end."

Griffin, who now stands 6-foot-2 and weighs 280 pounds, has always been a candidate for Weight Watchers, Appetite Anonymous and any other belt-loosening ideas that have come along. It might have cost him a good chance for a career as a quarterback.

"In the ninth grade, I had a heckuva arm. I could throw it better than our regular quarterback Jim Ainsworth, who threw for 2,000 yards and finished second behind Mark Hatch-

"Because I reported back at 293 pounds," Griffin snaps. "Coach Osborne or Coach (Charlie) McBride didn't say anything. During two-a-days and after a couple of scrimmages, I got moved up to No. 2, but it had taken the best part of three weeks to get down to 280."

"Coach McBride wants me to get down to 265 and I want to, too, but that's going to take a while. I'm working on it and I'm probably just a step short of having my quickness, but when I hustle and do my best, I get to the ball."

When the Huskers traveled to the New Jersey Meadowlands for the Kickoff Classic against a healthy Texas A&M, Griffin didn't start, but when he went in for his first series, he was tested right away.

"They (A&M) ran straight at Broderick (Thomas) and me, and we must have held up pretty good. So, I guess Coach decided to go with this



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Nebraska's defensive line, and Griffin's part in it, will be a key in '88.

lineup almost all of the rest of the game.

"I feel my strength is against the run and Coach McBride has been working hard on my pass rush. My legs feel good and the extra conditioning gassers Coach Osborne has been putting us through after practice have helped."

A "gasser" adds up to a trio of four-by-50-yard, cross-field sprints after practice with only a 60-second rest between trips. In case you haven't tried this, go do it by yourself and forget the energy spent at practice unless you have a couple of friends to help carry you home.

It hasn't all been roses for Griffin, who is a fifth-year senior at Nebraska and plans to graduate in consumer education next summer. He came heralded as the next "Junior Miller" at tight end. He caught five passes for 66 yards for the junior varsity squad, but hit some academic problems and redshirted the following year.

In 1987, he had "probably my most fun on offense" and played his best game in the opener on national television against Florida State when starting tight end Tom Banderas was injured. The Huskers popped the 'Noles, 34-17, and he adds, "We won, and I think I had a block that sprung Steve (Taylor) for a touchdown. A lot of my friends back home, who



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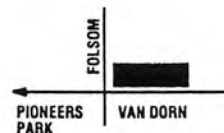
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watched the game, called and told me about it."

The following week against Illinois he played and scored a touchdown about which he adds, "They've got it listed as a 1-yard touchdown pass, but it was really a 21-yard play!"

Then in the spring of 1987, he switched to defense, which was a learning experience. And learn, he did. He played all three, down-line positions before finally locating at tackle. He looked at the switch rather philosophically: "It was just a different spot and a chance at playing for Nebraska. I'm defensive-minded now. You move around and hit people more. . . you don't have to be quite as mellow to play defense."

Griffin admits to having two sinking periods. . . first when he redshirted and the second when he reported for the 1988 preseason rehearsals well overweight.

"Tyrese Knox was there when I

needed him through that redshirt season. He's like family to me now," Griffin says. "But I was probably lowest after I reported back overweight."

"I'll admit I was full of self-pity and felt I wasn't doing anybody any good and I might as well quit. Our trainer, George Sullivan, and a couple of doctors talked to me. I consider Sullivan a great friend and the main reason I have a much better attitude."

"Of course, I'm a fifth-year senior and I should know what's going on, and I feel that I do now."

Griffin isn't afraid to attack his weaknesses, admitting first, he needs to get his weight down and become more regular in the weight room. He admits, "I'm not a big weight fan but it's necessary. You can feel the difference."

About his recruitment, Griffin points to the "honest, up-front talk" from Husker aide George Darlington

that turned him toward Lincoln.

"I'll admit that when I first visited here it was cold and dreary and getting back on the plane to go home, I sincerely doubted if I wanted to come to Nebraska," Griffin says. "But, other coaches talked the competition down; Nebraska didn't. You know something, one coach told me it snowed year-round in Nebraska."

"Hey, not even a high school kid is that stupid!"

He has listened to Tom Osborne's continued chant to graduate and Griffin claims, "Yes, I will 'get my paper,' because if football doesn't work out, you need something else to do with the rest of your life."

It seems Griffin has addressed each obstacle he has faced and has managed to handle them in more than satisfactory fashion. Now, let's see if the obstacles he presents to opposing offenses will be as easy to circumvent. ■

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Manning elbowed a player in the mouth, accidentally, as the two were jockeying for rebound position. It's a common occurrence in a basketball game.

This time, however, it produced an uncommon response. Manning's opponent — victim might be more accurate — took the elbow personally, you might say.

He wanted to fight. Cooler heads prevailed, and the fight was averted. But Manning's problems weren't over. "The guy said after the game he was going to shoot me," says Manning. "I thought I needed to get out of there."

"It was just a pick-up game."

Manning is willing to work on his rebounding... within reason.

He smiles now when he recounts the incident. Basketball is important to him. But he's not willing to lay down his life for the sport just yet.

That someone could get shot over an elbow in the face during a pick-up basketball game isn't as unlikely as it seems, given Manning's experience. He spent seven years of his childhood in the New York City borough of the Bronx, where, in certain sections, senseless violence is a part of everyday life.

"People getting shot, stabbed, beat up, gang fights, I saw all that stuff. We lived right by a park where all the dope dealers and addicts hung out. They were right in your face. You'd wake up in the morning, and they'd be in the doorway, shooting up," Manning says.

He and his mom had moved to the Bronx from Jamaica. And each summer, she'd send him back to Jamaica, to keep him from roaming the mean streets.

"My mom had to work nights, so I

would've had to stay by myself in the apartment," says Manning.

Not all his memories of the Bronx are bad, of course. He had a cousin who lived so close to Yankee Stadium that they often watched baseball games from the tenement's roof, which explains why Manning is a devoted Yankee fan.

When the Yankees were on the road, Manning, his cousin and their friends went skateboarding in Yankee Stadium's parking lots. For amusement "in the Bronx, about all we did

was skateboard and hang out," Manning says.

He returns to his old neighborhood whenever he can to visit friends and relive experiences. It's home. "I'm still a New Yorker," says Manning.

Maybe so, but he attended high school in Trenton, N.J., and learned to play basketball on the playgrounds there.

Manning's mom died prior to his sophomore year in high school, and he moved to Trenton to live with his grandmother. Compared to the Bronx, Trenton seemed serene.

"It was a lot different," Manning says. "In Trenton, most places closed at 2:00 in the morning, whereas, in the Bronx, things were open like 24 hours. People never sleep in New York. It was definitely cleaner and quieter."

Manning had some problems adjusting to his new environment. For one thing, he was hesitant to take to the streets. Living in the Bronx had made him cautious, so he spent most of his first two weeks in Trenton indoors.

He didn't know anybody, and he refused to take his grandmother's advice.

"Go for a walk," she'd say, more often than Manning cares to remember.

It took the better part of those two weeks, looking at the world through a window, to get him outside.

"Coming from New York to New Jersey, you have to adjust to a lot of things. It's like a whole different place," Manning says with a smile, showing off the "P" and "M" in the gold of his two upper front teeth. He had that bit of cosmetic dental work done during the summer. "No noise, no people. You can even walk the streets late at night."

Soon after venturing outside his grandmother's home, Manning met a couple of guys his own age who asked



Pete Manning takes basketball seriously...

if he wanted to play some basketball. After all, he certainly was beginning to look like a basketball player.

Manning, who stands 6-foot-8, really began to grow his sophomore year in high school. His grandmother said it was the fresh air in New Jersey that did it.

Whatever the reason, "I wasn't very tall (for his age) at all until I moved to New Jersey," says Manning. "That's when I really started growing."

His size fooled the neighborhood kids, who finally convinced him to go with them to a nearby park and play basketball. After a couple of trips to the park, Manning quit in frustration and embarrassment. He had quickly become a focus for taunts and laughter.

"I was real thin and clumsy, and I'd never played. So they'd make fun of me. I'd shoot and miss the basket, and they'd laugh. I didn't like people laughing at me," Manning says.

Butch Case, one of his new-found friends, never laughed.

"Don't worry about that," he'd tell Manning. "You're only going to get better if you keep playing."

Case was persistent and soon convinced Manning to return to the playground. Each day the two would walk to the park together and play basketball. And each day, Manning got a little better.

Basketball seemed to come easy. But if it hadn't been for Case, who earned a football scholarship to Wagner College, Manning would have never gone back.

When school began in the fall, he and his friends would congregate at the basketball courts in the evenings and play for a couple of hours. It was something to occupy his time.

Plus, the once gangly kid from the Bronx was beginning to enjoy it.

Manning continued to develop his basketball skills at Trenton's Ewing High School. Ewing's coach, Emil Wandishin, is a "really good fundamentals coach. He works on them first," says Manning, who probably wouldn't have gone out for the team if Wandishin hadn't encouraged him.

One day, Wandishin stopped Manning in the hall. "Why don't you try

out for the basketball team," he said.

"I'll have to think about it," Manning replied. But not for long.

Manning remembers not being very good his sophomore season, spending most of his time on the junior varsity. He improved as a junior, and his senior year, led Ewing to a 28-6 record and second place in New Jersey's Group III state tournament at Rutgers University.

The season after Manning graduated, Ewing won the championship. "We motivated them, I guess," he says.

Following his high school graduation, Manning became a kind of basketball nomad. He committed to signing a letter-of-intent with St. Peter's, a small NCAA-Division I school in Jersey City, N.J. But that fell



...sort of

through because he didn't have a cumulative high school grade-point average of 2.0. St. Peter's suggested he sit out a year.

"I didn't want to do that," Manning says. "I knew if I sat out, I would have left school. So I decided I would go to a junior college."

With help from Wandishin, Manning contacted Gary Barga, now a Nebraska assistant but the head coach at Hutchinson, Kan., Junior College then. Hutchinson is the annual host for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) tournament and a traditional junior college power.

Manning took a recruiting trip to Hutchinson and liked it, "a lot."

He was a teammate of former Huskers Henry Buchanan and Derrick Vick at Hutchinson. Barga's team also included Todd Christian, who went on to Oklahoma State; Ben Gillery, Georgetown; Tyrone Jones, Oklahoma; and Marvin Branch, Kansas. It finished third in the NJCAA tournament, with a 31-7 record, Manning's sophomore year.

But Manning didn't play. Neither did Branch. Both sat out as injury red-shirts.

Prior to the next season, Barga left Hutchinson to become an assistant under Cornhusker Coach Danny Nee. Vick and Buchanan also went to Nebraska and most of their other teammates were gone.

So Manning and Branch decided to get out of Hutchinson, too.

Manning headed home to New Jersey, figuring his days of playing college basketball might be over.

Late that summer, however, he got a telephone call from Riley Wallace, the coach at Seminole, Okla., Junior College, asking if he would be interested in playing there.

Wallace needed a forward, and Manning needed a scholarship. It was a good match, even though both were taking a chance. Manning didn't have time to visit the school before deciding.

He had to make up his mind right away.

As it turned out, "it was a good choice," says Manning. "He (Wallace)

really motivated me."

Wallace made his players mentally tough. "If you couldn't take somebody nagging at you, you couldn't make it there," he says.

Manning not only made it at Seminole Junior College, he blossomed, averaging 13.2 points and 10.7 rebounds. "He was the first player I've had with a rebounding average in double figures," said Wallace, who

also coached Gerald Paddio (Nevada-Las Vegas), Archie Marshall (Kansas), and Sylvester Kincheon (Oklahoma State).

Nebraska wasn't the only school attracted by Manning's statistics. Villanova, Memphis State, Western Kentucky, Tulsa and Northeastern also came calling. He narrowed his list to Memphis State and Northeastern, located in Boston. "It was

closer to home, but I didn't want to go there because it was right in the middle of the city," says Manning. "You have to get away from that if you want to play basketball. In a city, it's like, 'I'm home.' You want to go out and party.

"There's always something to do."

During his recruiting visit to Nebraska, Manning attended the Cornhusker victory over Washington that clinched a trip to the National Invitation Tournament semifinals in New York City's Madison Square Garden.

That game at the Devaney Sports Center left a lasting impression on Manning.

"I was amazed by the crowd. Every basket Nebraska made, they stood up. I wondered if they were going to sit down so I could see the game. And when they won, the fans went crazy," he says.

Manning's mind was made up.

He adjusted well to Division I play, despite often times being out of position, as a center. He led the Big Eight in field goal percentage (59.0), edging out Kansas' Danny Manning, the collegiate Player of the Year.

Pete played in all 31 games, starting 16. He averaged 9.5 points and 5.0 rebounds per game, with highs of 27 points against Oklahoma and 10 rebounds against Grambling State.

Manning is one of only two seniors on this year's team — guard Eric Johnson is the other — and he's being heavily counted on by Nee to provide both scoring and rebounding.

"I'm pumped up," says Manning, who spent the summer getting ready, concentrating, in particular, on rebounding. "Coach Nee wants me to work hard at it because he says rebounding is what gets me started.

"That's how he can tell if I'm going to have a good game."

If Nee had seen Manning use his elbows in that pick-up game at Princeton, he probably would have been pleased with Manning's aggressiveness.

But the good thing is, from now on Manning won't have to worry about someone threatening to shoot him because of the way he plays the game. ■



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California Dreamin'

NEBRASKA RAN INTO A UCLA BUZZ SAW THAT TURNED THIS SHOWDOWN INTO A NIGHTMARE.

PASADENA, Calif. — A few years ago, there was this diabolical toy; a rube cube or squirrely square or baffling box. It was called a lot worse things by people who freaked out trying to solve this puzzle. It was frustrating. It was a question without an easy answer. It was a puzzle with hidden pieces. It was the Raiders, Jets and Heidi. It was Who-Shot-J.R.? It was Jimmy Hoffa. It was, some will claim, UCLA-Nebraska at the Rose Bowl.

But that's not true, Nebraska's 41-28 loss to UCLA was Twilight Zone material all right, but many questions from that game have answers. Cornhusker fans will not like hearing some of those answers, and Bruin fans won't like hearing others. All in all, the results of this game-that-wasn't-a-game are not as bad as the Huskers might fear or as good as UCLA Coach Terry Donahue might hope.

Results of the first quarter were amazing, and that's what made this showdown of No. 2 and No. 5 ranked teams so unusual. Amazing and unusual events started taking place even before kickoff. UCLA's student section was packed a full hour before the game, with college kids cheering at a fevered pitch. Even the laid-back adult citizenry of Los Angeles arrived extra early.

You see, the pre-game script had already been written, and Nebraska was the bad guy. One Dallas sportswriter referred to the Huskers as "bullies." A Los Angeles writer called Tom Osborne's past "murky." Donahue said Nebraska's 1983-84 teams weren't "normal" and that he was "ticked off" at Nebraska because of his recent 42-point defeats.

Such taunts are the price of success, not just a couple of years of it,



Jeff Mills gets to Troy Aikman for one of two Husker sacks.

but decades of it. It seems everyone likes the underdog, and even though the Bruins were favored by a point or two coming in, the home team embraced its white-hat image with gusto.

Back to that first quarter, which was also embraced with amazing and unusual Bruin gusto. No question about this — UCLA tight end James Arbuckle is one tough dude. He started the Bruin landslide with a 57-yard touchdown reception; a great play for a guy coming off knee surgery. But the killer here was that the Black Shirts had several tackle opportunities

on Arbuckle, but they slipped through their hand. One shot was at the UCLA 45, and if sure-handed LeRoy Etienne had stopped Arbuckle in his tracks, it would have been third-and-5 instead of 7-0.

If you're looking for answers, this play gave two. First, the Bruin tight end, who finished with five receptions, was obviously good. And second, NU's tackling lapsed.

Nebraska had given up longer TD passes in its rich football tradition and still responded with victories, but Arbuckle's catch was just the beginning.

On the Huskers very next offensive possession, they did some amazing and unusual things of their own. On the first snap, Nebraska's offensive line literally folded the UCLA front wall into a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, with both flanks being pinned yards behind the line of scrimmage and squashed together. Tight

end Todd Millikan even drove his foe deep inside on this running play. However, I-back Ken Clark chose to power ahead instead of sprinting outside into the open, and he somehow found the only Bruin who hadn't been gobbled up by NU's line surge. Result: no gain and a big momentum boost for UCLA.



Ken Clark withstood a pair of crushing hits as NU's rally came up short.

Nebraska obviously did the manhandling on that play, though.

Next, the Huskers combined sharp passing by Steve Taylor and running by Clark to move into Bruin territory only to have the promising drive stopped by a third-down dropped pass in the open. How often does that happen? Answer: rarely.

Next came some unusual and amazing performances by UCLA as Donahue's team took over at its 20 and marched expertly for a first down. Then, Eric Ball, who would finish with 148 rushing yards, burst for 64 yards and an apparent touchdown. It was called back by a penalty, but the key is that this shocking sprint gave the Bruins even more of an emotional boost, reinforcement that after all these years of getting sand kicked in

UCLA's Darryl Henley returned the NU punt 75 yards for a touchdown, something that hadn't happened since 1964.

their face by Nebraska, the Bruins could finally play with the Huskers.

More amazement followed as freshman tailback Shawn Wills broke for runs of 20 and then 50 yards (a TD with 6:38 left in the quarter). Was UCLA's offense good? Answer: very. Did they have momentum? Answer: tons. Was Nebraska outclassed? The answer would come in a few seconds.

Down 14-0, NU's offense was on the prowl again. At midfield, wingback Dana Brinson took a razzle-dazzle pitch and reversed what appeared to be a big gainer. He was already 15 yards up-field and offensive tackle Doug Glaser had laid waste to a UCLA defender near the right sideline to setup a nice outside alley. However, the cat-quick Brinson darted inside where an off-balance Bruins

Photo by John Bills

SCORING SUMMARY

Nebraska 28, UCLA 41

Nebraska.....	0	13	7	8	— 28
UCLA.....	28	10	3	0	— 41

UCLA — Arbuckle 57 pass from Aikman (Velasco kick).
 UCLA — Wills 50 run (Velasco kick).
 UCLA — Arbuckle 3 pass from Aikman (Velasco kick).
 UCLA — Henley 75 punt return (Velasco kick).
 Neb. — Blazek 75 interception return (Drennan kick).
 UCLA — Keating 11 pass from Aikman (Velasco kick).
 UCLA — FG Velasco 42.
 Neb. — Gregory 8 pass from Taylor (kick failed).
 UCLA — FG Velasco 34.
 Neb. — Taylor 1 run (Drennan kick).
 Neb. — Millikan 1 pass from Taylor (Taylor run).

Attendance: 84,086

desperately tried an arm tackle but got the ball instead. It was a text-book offensive play except for the fumble.

UCLA recovered.

Question: did Nebraska look like it was going to score? Answer: yes, and quickly. Did UCLA pile on another scoop of delicious momentum? Answer: a triple-decker.

What followed was an impressive 47-yard UCLA scoring drive that put the home team ahead, 21-0, and was culminated by a crisply executed, 3-yard pass from QB Troy Aikman to Arbuckle with 4:64 left in — gulp — the first quarter. There wasn't much amazing or unusual about this drive. UCLA had already proven that Aikman and its offense were for real.

But when the Huskers couldn't move the chains on their next offensive possession, ABC-TV could just as well have substituted a "Twilight Zone" rerun for their game footage. UCLA's Darryl Henley returned the NU punt 75 yards for a touchdown, something that hadn't happened to Nebraska since Twilight Zone was actually on the air (1964).

Count it, 28-zip. Three minutes to go in the — geez — first period.

Question: was this game over? Answer: not if the Huskers could break UCLA's momentum with an offensive rebuttal. Osborne's troops had definitely shown the potential to move on UCLA. They needed more than potential, and they needed it fast.

Instead, this bizarre first quarter ended with UCLA filling its momentum tank with super premium, high-octane momentum thanks to a trio of slobber-knocking hits that rattled Clark twice and Brinson once.

Question: had UCLA ever played better? Answer: "I'm not sure we've ever played better," said Donahue. Question: was Nebraska now sinking in the same boat with Florida State, which had been a preseason No. 1 pick only to get un-oned by Miami? Answer: no. You see, FSU got hammered all night long, losing, 31-0, without giving any indication the Seminoles could either stop Miami's offense or score on its defense.

Even though the Black Shirts' near-miss tackling (plus an admitted short-



Nebraska went back to the drawing board after UCLA's decisive first quarter.

age of intensity) and UCLA's slick execution made it obvious the Bruins were going to get points, it also seemed obvious, even during that Hurricane Gilbert first period, that Nebraska's offense could keep up if...

If the ground game had not been altered to a catch-up passing attack, NU might have rallied to win.

That brings us back to turnovers. Nebraska suffered four and UCLA just one.

And had the usual Husker ground game not been altered into a catch-up passing attack, NU probably could

have made a game of it. As it was, the outcome was not seriously in doubt after that first quarter and the early minutes of the second period.

The first-quarter stats read like something you might see in a bankruptcy lawyer's files. It was shockingly out of balance. UCLA had 209 total offense yards to Nebraska's 53. By halftime, the Bruins had piled up 339 total offense yards to NU's 157. But the second quarter trend would continue, and Osborne's troops would fight back to respectability.

By game's end, the Huskers had matched their California counterparts with 21 first downs each. They outrushed UCLA, 260-233, and the Nebraska ground game didn't surrender a loss behind the line all day. NU finished with a healthy 385 yards in total offense, but the Bruins almost got that in the first half alone.

Still, the second half answered a lot of questions. Was Nebraska washed up? Answer: no. Any team that can generate 228 yards in total offense in two quarters while holding UCLA to

Photo by John Bills

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Taylor Sparks Uphill Rally

Some honors are nicer than others, and Nebraska quarterback Steve Taylor would probably trade this week's Player of the Game notation in the blink of an eye for the honor of simply being interviewed as the winning quarterback after the UCLA game.

In Nebraska's uphill battle against the Bruins, Taylor scrambled for 95

yards on 14 carries to easily lead the Huskers in yardage and attempts. This included a 1-yard touchdown run in the third period. His rushing total accounted for more than one-third of NU's 260 team rushing yards. He didn't lose a single yard on the ground.

Taylor hit 14 of 29 passes for 125

yards, including an 8-yard touchdown strike to split end Morgan Gregory and a 1-yard toss to tight end Todd Millikan. Those attempt and completion totals are career highs for Taylor because, mostly, the Huskers were forced to throw after falling behind. However, that productive effort was marred by three interceptions, which unfortunately also tied a career high.

Following the pass to Millikan, Taylor even ran in the two-point conversion.

So, by running or passing, Taylor was responsible for 20 of Nebraska's 28 points. The other scoring came on Mark Blazek's 75-yard interception return and two extra-point kicks by Chris Drennan.

Of the Cornhuskers' 385 yards in total offense, Taylor contributed 230.

Although his successes were darkened by the game's shocking outcome, Taylor even out-yarded UCLA's top-flight quarterback Troy Aikman. Of course, after UCLA's 28-point explosion in the first quarter, these quarterbacks were operating with completely different game plans; Taylor trying to catch up and Aikman trying to hold on.

Close behind Taylor as a candidate for Player of the Game honors was Gregory, who caught five passes (a career best) for 57 yards. Gregory has quickly become the Huskers' top pass-catching threat as he's grabbed 11 passes in Nebraska's first three games. ■

Taylor made almost 60 percent of NU's yards.



99 is not a washed-up football team. Of course, any team that is behind 38-13 at the half can expect its opponent to naturally ease up after intermission. That happened. But Nebraska also played better. UCLA returned to earth.

Following the game, UCLA skyrocketed to No. 2 in the wire service polls, and Nebraska fell nine spots to No. 11 as word spread quickly of the 28-0 first-quarter explosion by the Bruins.

After intermission, NU played better and UCLA returned to earth.

One unanswerable question may be whether or not the Bruins have truly reached the "new level" that Coach Donahue proudly said they have. Is the UCLA program now on the same level with Nebraska's? That may take years to answer. But a fairly reasonable answer can be given by asking a few more questions. . .

How many 10-win seasons do these schools have? Answer: 12 for Nebraska, three for UCLA.

How many Top 10 finishes for each

UCLA burst the Big Red's balloon, but nine games remain in which to make repairs. And the bowl makes 10.



school? Answer: 24 for Nebraska (18 consecutive) and 15 by UCLA.

How many Academic All-Americans since 1976 (Coach Donahue's first year)? Answer: 20 for Nebraska, five for UCLA.

How many consecutive winning seasons? Answer: Nebraska 25, UCLA eight.

How many consecutive home sellouts? Answer: Nebraska 156, UCLA none.

Yes, it will take a few more years to say conclusively that UCLA has reached its new level.

Unfortunately, there is little doubt the Bruins were on a higher level Saturday. ■

SEASON RECAP	8/27 A&M	9/3 USU	9/10 UCLA	9/24 ASU	10/1 UNLV	10/8 KU	10/15 OSU	10/22 KSU	10/29 MU	11/5 ISU	11/12 CU	11/9 OU	BOWL	SEASON AVERAGE
First Downs	19	34	21											25
Yards Rushing	201	421	260											294
Yards Passing	125	169	125											140
Fumbles - Lost	5-3	0-0	2-1											7-4
Time of Possession	60%	54%	44%											53%
Third Down Conversions	50%	50%	46%											49%
Final Score	23-14	63-14	28-41											38-23

NOTES & QUOTES

The talk of "normal" Nebraska all faded after UCLA's shocking 41-28 victory over Nebraska Saturday night. UCLA Coach Terry Donahue insisted again that his speech about the Nebraska teams of 1983 and 1984 not being "normal," was misinterpreted. Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne addressed the subject in his post-game press conference. "If we had an advantage at any time in the past that wasn't right, I'm sorry for it."

Nebraska wingback Dana Brinson had a tough night in Pasadena. He fumbled after a 17-yard gain at the NU 47 on Nebraska's second possession of the game. Seven minutes later, early in the second quarter, he was slammed head-on by Matt Darby and knocked unconscious for a minute. Brinson suffered a mouth laceration and didn't return to the game until the fourth quarter.

Other Nebraska injuries included: fullbacks Bryan Carpenter with a seri-

ous hand bruise, Lance Lewis with shoulder and neck injuries and Sam Schmidt with a severely sprained ankle.

NU running back coach Frank Solich said that I-back Tyreese Knox may be moved to fullback, a position he played two years ago.

The Cornhuskers also may be without their one experienced defensive tackle if Ray Valladao's knee bruise is serious. Junior center Jake Young, in his first game as a starter since suffering a knee injury in preseason workouts had a bruised shoulder and quarterback Steve Taylor had a sprained ankle in the UCLA game.

UCLA tagged Nebraska with the most points (41) given up by a Cornhusker team since 1968 when Oklahoma pasted NU 47-0. The Bruins had more points by halftime than any team had ever scored against a Tom Osborne-coached team.

UCLA's 28 first-quarter points were the most ever by an NU opponent in the Osborne-Devaney era. Darryl Henley's 75-yard punt return for a touchdown that put UCLA ahead 28-0 was the first punt return for a touchdown against Nebraska since 1964, when Minnesota's Billy Crockett did it.

Despite the loss, Nebraska has the top winning percentage in the nation over the last six years, winning 63 of 75 games (.840). UCLA is seventh.

UCLA's Troy Aikman, who had been outpassed by four top quarterbacks last year in head-to-head meetings (including NU's Taylor and USC's Rodney Peete) finally got the better of a top opponent. Aikman was 13-22-1 for 205 yards and Taylor was 14-29-3 for 125 yards.

Nebraska outgained UCLA 231-94 in total offense in the second half. The Cornhuskers outscored UCLA 28-3 in the final 41 minutes of the 60-



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minute game.

"We never gave up," Taylor said. "Coming into the second half we thought we'd come back. We made the adjustments and we played hard."

Los Angeles Times sportswriter Jim Murray, a five-time National Sports-writer of the Year, was also covering the game for his paper. He said he was stunned by UCLA's first half performance. "It looks like David did some growing up and he's hard to tell from Goliath anymore," Murray said. Murray wrote on Sunday that if not for UCLA tailback Eric Ball, who gained 148 yards on 35 carries, Nebraska's comeback attempt probably would have been successful.

Osborne said Nebraska may rethink pass coverage approach after Saturday's game. "Maybe we need to eliminate some of the things we're trying to do on defense," he said. "Usually, when we have trouble, the first thing we need to do is go back

to the basics. We need to do a fewer number of things more soundly."

Osborne said the first quarter "was like a nightmare. But the players told me they were going to be okay."

Nebraska dropped to No 11 in the AP poll and if the Cornhuskers stay there it'll be the first time in 18 years the Cornhuskers haven't been in the final Top 10 of at least one of the major wire service polls.

"I have to be honest," junior outside linebacker Jeff Mills said, "we were not as intense as they (UCLA) were. When we played with intensity we came back. But we were like this in the start of the Fiesta Bowl against Florida State last year because we had beaten this team easily before. How else can they turn all those 'under' passes into big gains and those runs through us time and time again?"

"It's tough playing Nebraska — they never quit," Aikman said. "We could have been ahead 63-0 in the

fourth quarter and they would have still been coming at us with all their fury. I never felt comfortable. It's so rare that a team can give Nebraska a shot like that. I didn't know what to think. We expected a dogfight and they came back and we held on to it. But we got a good jump."

"It's kind of unexplainable," Osborne said of the game. "That was the worst quarter I can remember here."

The last time a team got a big jump on Nebraska was in 1983 when Miami and Bernie Kosar passed to a 17-0 lead over Nebraska and eventually won 31-30.

"The few times we had the ball in the first quarter, we didn't execute," Osborne said.

Mark Blazek, who was credited with NU's first score on a bizarre 75-yard interception return, said, "All I can do is apologize to the Nebraska fans, and the fans back home. We need to put this behind us." ■



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Pete Progresses at Noseguard

Noseguard Lawrence Pete has returned.

The Wichita, Kan., senior wasn't even listed in Nebraska's 1988 media guide after leaving the team last spring for personal reasons. But he visited with Cornhusker coaches during the off-season and changed his mind, making a commitment to return with renewed enthusiasm.

However, his early contributions were limited as the 6-foot-1 and 270-pound Pete was slowed by illnesses, including mononucleosis which sapped his strength. After that slow start, though, he has come on, and most recently played well enough against UCLA to move up the depth chart to the starter's spot at noseguard.

"It's been a combination of things,"

Pete says of his improvement. "Not being the starter took a lot of pressure off me, and I've just tried to play aggressively and play up to my abilities. Plus, I wanted the job. We're all competitive athletes here. We all want to start. So, I worked hard to move up."

Pete proved to be one of Nebraska's bright spots on defense against UCLA in a game that didn't have a lot of shining moments. Much credit for that, of course, must be given to UCLA.

"They were a very physical and aggressive football team," Pete assesses. "They did the things that any team needs to do to win. They executed well. Blocked well."

"If anything, I'd say they played above their heads."

There's no denying the Bruins en-

joyed success against the Black Shirts, generating more than 400 yards in total offense. No team had ever scored 41 points against a Tom Osborne-coached squad. However, there was an extra sting to this game because the Cornhuskers contributed to that success with some very uncharacteristic missed tackles that turned average plays into big plays.

Says Pete: "I think we may have been overly aggressive. It was a matter of trying to kill the ball carrier with a great hit instead of concentrating on technique football and just bringing the guy down with a clean tackle. But you have to give them credit; their backs are fast and strong. Unfortunately, we helped them do their job."

For Pete to be in the starting role is nothing new. In 1987, he was a part-time starter as Nebraska had the chore of replacing consensus All-American Danny Noonan, who is now starting for the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League.

Pete filled in admirably in 1987, making 45 tackles, 25 of them unassisted, to finish second among down linemen in total stops. Only All-American and since-departed Neil Smith had more.

However, Pete also received steady pressure for the No. 1 job from Mike Murray, who was right behind with 34 tackles and started several games. Imagine that, Nebraska's co-starters at noseguard combined for 79 totals in '87!

Pete finished with five unassisted tackles against the Bruins as he went head-up against UCLA's all-conference center Frank Cornish.

Another solid effort may be needed against the Sun Devils because ASU returns three of four offensive line starters from last year's team that gave NU a tough fight in Tempe. When Nebraska makes its comeback against Arizona State, a key player will also be continuing his comeback. Pete and the Huskers are both hoping their return is successful. ■

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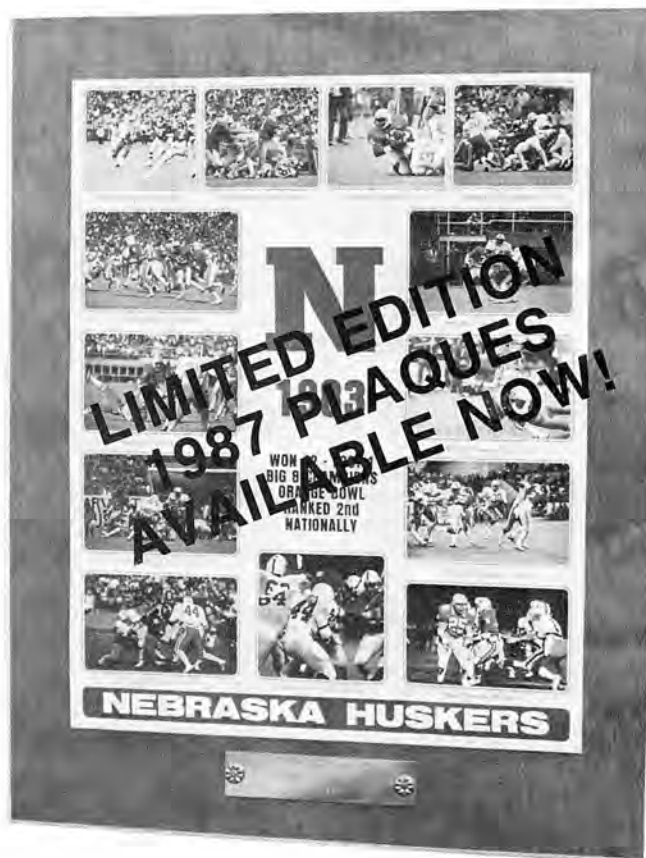
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Mike Babcock

15-Minute Nightmare

PASADENA, Calif. — These things are going to happen every 15 or 20 years.

Well, maybe they're going to.

That's about the only way you're going to explain what happened to Nebraska in the first quarter of its 41-28 loss to UCLA in the Rose Bowl.

Bruin coach Terry Donahue said he'd never seen a team of his play a quarter like it did against the Cornhuskers.

It was a freak occurrence. One in a million. UCLA was uncanny. For 15 minutes, everything the Bruins touched turned to gold — UCLA gold.

Nebraska's problem was, by the second quarter, it was too late.

What happened to the Cornhuskers, ranked second in the nation by both major wire services prior to the game, in the first quarter defied

analysis. About all anyone could do was check the record book for comparisons.

There haven't been many such games.

Based on what happened in the first quarter, it appeared Nebraska might be on the way to its worst loss since Osborne became head coach in 1973.

Oklahoma, which has handed the Cornhuskers four of their five worst losses under Osborne, won the 1977 game with Nebraska in Norman 38-7.

UCLA led by the same score after Alfredo Velasco kicked a 42-yard field goal with 3:54 remaining in the first half. But the Cornhuskers responded by scoring a touchdown, on an 8-yard pass from Steve Taylor to Morgan Gregory before the intermission.

So much for the worst-loss-in-the-Osborne-era stories.

About the closest you could come to a comparison to Nebraska's start against UCLA was the first quarter of the Cornhuskers' 31-30 loss to Miami in the 1984 Orange Bowl game, when the Hurricanes shocked their top-ranked opponent by taking a 17-0 first quarter lead on the passing of Bernie Kosar.

Nebraska fought back with 14 second-quarter points to trail by three at halftime, 17-14, in that game and managed to tie it less than two minutes into the second half before Kosar went to work again, directing the Hurricanes to a pair of third-quarter touchdowns.

The Cornhuskers never really got back in it against UCLA, though. The final score wasn't indicative of what happened. Nebraska scored a pair of touchdowns in the second half, the second on a pass from Taylor to tight end Todd Millikan, with less than five minutes remaining to make the final score more respectable.

It was similar to last season's Cornhusker-UCLA game except that the Bruins scored the late touchdowns. The situation was reversed.

The build-up to this year's game centered on the quarterbacks, Taylor and Troy Aikman, whom UCLA is pushing for the Heisman Trophy.

Each week the Bruins mail out a color postcard to members of the media, listing Aikman's statistics.

His performance against Nebraska certainly won't hinder his chances.

He completed 13 of 22 passes for 205 yards and three touchdowns. He was intercepted once, on the controversial play by Mark Blazek that produced Nebraska's first touchdown.

The Cornhuskers only sacked Aikman twice. Still, their inability to get to the senior from Henryetta, Okla., doesn't explain the shocking loss.

Actually, Aikman's passing statistics were about the same as they were last season, when Nebraska won 42-33. He completed 14 of 22 passes for 211 yards and wasn't intercepted in



Perhaps no better word fit this game than bizarre.

Lincoln.

Brendan McCracken came off the bench and added 56 passing yards, on 4-of-7 completions, to give the Bruins 267.

A big difference in the two games was UCLA's success running the ball.

A year ago, the Bruins were limited to 94 yards on 53 carries, less than 2 yards per carry. Gaston Green, Aikman's predecessor as UCLA's Heisman Trophy candidate designate, managed only 46 yards on 19 carries. In fact, Green's Heisman candidacy probably ended that afternoon in Memorial Stadium.

Last Saturday night, UCLA ran over and around the Cornhuskers for 233 yards, including 148 on 35 carries by tailback Eric Ball, a 6-foot-1½, 216-pound senior from Ypsilanti, Mich., who, ironically enough, was heavily recruited by Nebraska out of high school.

Ball took a pounding. He was sore all over, he told reporters after the game. But the Cornhuskers couldn't stop him. He never lost a yard in those 35 attempts, most of which took him into the heart of Nebraska's defense.

Most of UCLA's remaining yards on the ground were accounted for by Shawn Wills, a freshman tailback who played because Ball's back-up, sophomore Brian Brown, was sidelined by an injury.

Wills carried only four times, but he gained 73 yards, 50 of which came on a touchdown run in the first quarter.

If there was a telling statistic, UCLA's rushing yardage might have been it. "I thought we matched up with Nebraska pound-for-pound," Aikman told reporters afterward. "So many times in the past people have said UCLA is a finesse team and can't hang in there with the big boys."

But not this time.

The Bruins were just as physical. How else do you explain the missed tackles?

UCLA tight end Charles Arbuckle ran right through Cornhusker linebacker LeRoy Etienne on a 57-yard touchdown pass from Aikman to get the Bruins rolling in the first quarter.

Just like 1987, this year's Nebraska-UCLA game was not as close as the score.



Etienne is one of Nebraska's surest, and most hard-hitting, tacklers.

UCLA's defense came to play, too. The Cornhusker injury list included all three fullbacks who made the trip: Sam Schmidt (sprained ankle), Bryan Carpenter (hand bruise) and freshman Lance Lewis (neck strain).

In addition, wingback Dana Brinson suffered a laceration in his mouth; Taylor sprained an ankle; and center Jake Young bruised a shoulder.

Tackle Ray Valladao was the only Nebraska defender with a significant injury, immediately identifiable. He suffered a knee bruise.

Despite everything, though, the loss could be traced back to that first quarter when UCLA scored four touchdowns, the last on Darryl Henley's 75-yard punt return. Nebraska hadn't allowed a punt return touchdown since 1964, when Minnesota's Billy Crockett went 80 yards with one to score.

By the time Henley raced down the sideline, it was apparent that Murphy's Law was working against Nebraska. If something can go wrong, it will. And it did.

Fumbles, missed tackles, penalties.

Hey. These things are going to happen once in a while — a long, long while.

How do you explain it? You don't.

But if you really feel the need for an explanation, try this one. UCLA won because its defense is greatly improved over last season. Far-fetched, you say?

Consider that Nebraska had scored 42 points in three of the last four games between the schools, all victories. If the Cornhuskers had gotten 42 points last Saturday, they'd have won again.

That may sound crazy. But when you're dealing with something as incredible as what happened to Nebraska in the first quarter, what's the difference?

Take away those 15 minutes, and the game went about as expected.

"We ran the clock in the second half and didn't play quite as well," UCLA coach Terry Donahue said.

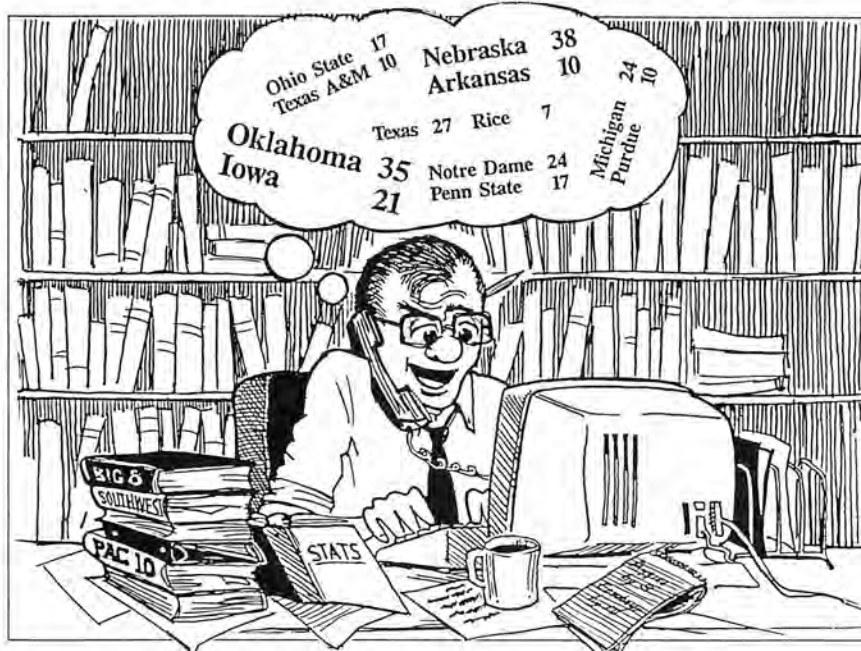
"I don't know if that was so much our doing or the fact that Nebraska played a much better second half."

The answer to that is easy. ■

Hot Huskers to Rebound

Bill Huffman, *Arizona Republic*, Tempe, Ariz.: "When you look at Arizona State, you see a team that is a shell of its former self. This year has been extremely tough on the Sun Devils. The coach (John Cooper) left to take the job at Ohio State, and a lot of key players were lost because of graduation. Right now, the Sun Devils are weak and they are very inexperienced. A good example of how weak they really are, they were picked to finish seventh in the Pacific 10 this year. They were one game away from the Rose Bowl last year and now they are picked seventh. That really hurts. ASU also suffered a lot of key injuries early in the season. Injuries and graduation have pretty well wiped out what could have been a tough Arizona State squad. Let's face the facts about this game. ASU can't compete with a potent offensive team like the Huskers. They only have two people returning as defensive starters and that is a bad sign whenever you are getting ready to face the Husker offensive attack. Defensive problems aren't the only thing that will bother the Sun Devils when they head to Lincoln. Our running backs are inexperienced and the offensive line is very questionable. Daniel Ford is the only player on offense that will be able to compete with the athletes that Nebraska has on their team. As sad as it is to say, the best part of the ASU team is their kicking game. When that is what is considered the best part, you know that you are in deep trouble. Arizona State is also very small when you compare them to Nebraska. Not only are they smaller than the Huskers, they are much slower. That is not a good combination. Another weakness of the Sun Devils is their schedule. It is very weak and not very helpful when you are trying to get ready for Nebraska. Look for Nebraska to win easily, 48-14."

Dean Gyorgi, *Arizona State Press*, Tempe, Ariz.: "I can't see this being much of a football game. Nebraska



should win the game by three touchdowns, but I can't name a specific score. The Sun Devils are very young on the defensive line. They haven't had much big-game exposure and that will definitely hurt them when they play the Huskers in Lincoln. Arizona State's offense is not bad, but it isn't very good either. A lot of people think that Daniel Ford is a great quarterback. He is a good quarterback, but he is not capable of outscoring Nebraska single-handedly. No one in the country could do that to the Huskers. Steve Taylor could probably outscore the Sun Devils by himself, but if ASU thinks that Ford can carry them by himself, they're crazy. ASU's defense can't keep up with the caliber of athletes that Nebraska has. This game will just be a tune-up for the Huskers before they start their Big Eight schedule."

Lee Barfknecht, *Omaha World-Herald*, Omaha, Neb.: "I look for the score of this game to be Nebraska 31, Arizona State 7. I don't think that this will be a close game in any sense of the word. The Black Shirts could probably shut out the Sun Devils. Thomas and Etienne will shut down

any kind of offense that the Sun Devils can muster in Lincoln. Arizona State will score on the Nebraska defense, but it will probably be a touchdown that will happen late in the game against the second-string players. That's the only way that I can see Arizona State scoring on Nebraska in Lincoln."

Bob Moran, *Mesa Tribune*, Mesa, Ariz.: "Nebraska 28, Arizona State 10. The key to this game will be the matchup of the potent Nebraska running game against the front seven defenders of Arizona State's young defense. They still have not answered a lot of questions about their abilities to play in the big-game situations. Nebraska has a very talented team. Their defense is very solid and their offense is scary for the opposition to face. However, ASU has a good group of receivers and running backs that are underrated and not talked about very much at all. People mention Daniel Ford and then they stop talking about the Sun Devil offense. This will be another case of the Pac-10 trying to throw the ball against the Big Eight secondaries. In the past, that would really worry the

Big Eight coaches, but in recent years, the secondaries at Nebraska and Oklahoma have responded to the challenge. If Arizona State can get their passing game up to the level that it is supposed to reach, they could make this a better game than a lot of people think is possible. If Ford heats up early, it could get interesting."

Del Sutherland, *Falls City Journal*, Falls City, Neb.: "Nebraska 35, Arizona State 14. I can't see any possibility of this being a close game. Arizona State won't be able to give Nebraska any problems. After having played UCLA and Arizona State back-to-back, the Huskers should be ready to start Big Eight play again. Playing UCLA and ASU in successive weeks won't cause the Huskers any problems at all. The only way that Arizona State might be able to give the Huskers a workout would be if Nebraska has a lot of lingering inju-

ries to key players from the Rose Bowl. But, I think most everyone will be healthy, so this won't be much of a contest."

David Ochsner, *Nebraska City News Press*, Nebraska City, Neb.: "This will be a tight game, but not as close as it was last year in Tempe. Anytime that you play Nebraska at home, you had better be prepared for a tough game. Playing two teams that were ranked in the Top 10 really helped to season Nebraska and get them ready for the rest of their schedule. After those two games, they are ready for ASU. I say that **Nebraska will win by 10**. I think that when a team plays a tough schedule like Nebraska did this year, it helps to keep their injury count down. It sounds crazy, but a team with an easier schedule seems to be more injury-prone. The schedule also has helped Nebraska to stay strong mentally. I was scared that the team might let

down when they played Utah State, but that never happened and that was a very good sign for Husker fans. Anytime that Nebraska plays their schedule one game at a time, it helps them tremendously. You can't look past the Kansas States to play the Oklahomas. Nebraska will be able to take Arizona State out of the picture without too many problems. Nebraska is a little disappointed that they did not get to be the No. 1 team in the nation when Miami beat Florida State, but you have to look at Miami as a powerhouse and a possible bowl opponent for the Huskers. It is still very early in the season, but Nebraska fans should be glad that Miami is No. 1 early in the season. The 'top-ranked jinx' won't affect Nebraska if they are No. 2 early in the campaign. The Huskers will be rooting for Miami to win their games until the end of the season when Nebraska could claim the top spot in the nation." ■

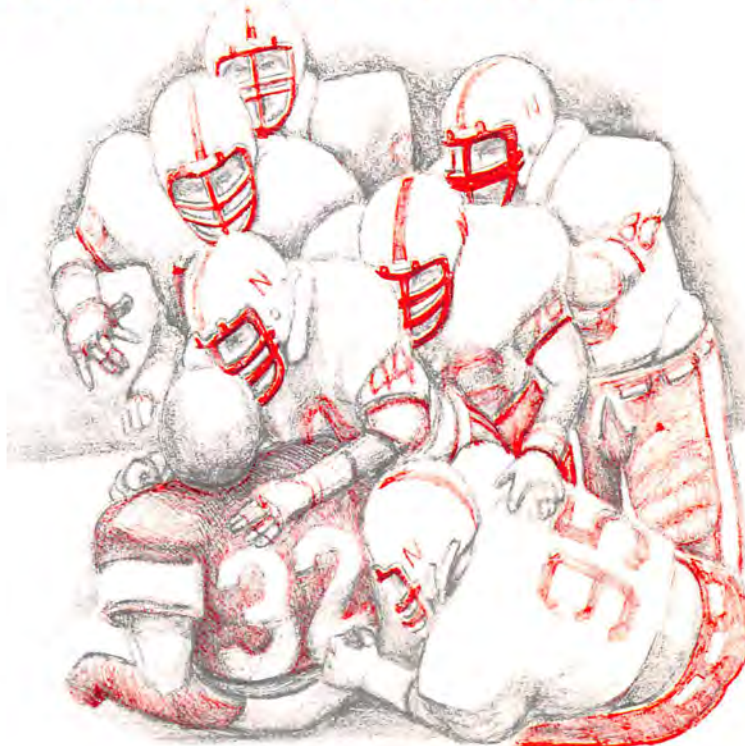
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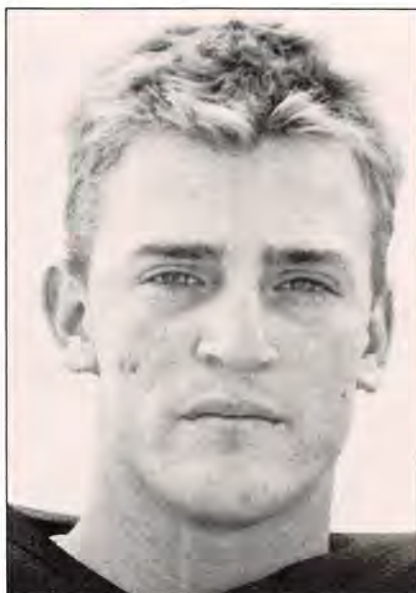


Arizona State Sun Devils

Mysteries may be solved when the Sun Devils of Arizona State and Nebraska meet. One is how the Huskers will bounce back. The other is whether or not first-year coach Larry Marmie can replace departed John Cooper without missing a beat and have his club ready to contend for a bowl again.

ASU lost Cooper to Ohio State and tons of stars to the NFL draft last spring. The Sun Devils are left with, most notably, quarterback Daniel Ford from last year. However, Ford struggled against NU in '87, which wouldn't seem to be encouraging for ASU, but he's had a good spring, and indications are he will be a top-flight QB this fall. Ford finished with 1,756 passing yards and 12 touchdowns last year while leading ASU to a 7-4-1 record. He hit just under 50 percent of his passes.

However, Coach Marmie (previously the ASU defensive coordinator) lost the starting fullback and tailback from last year's squad as well as all-everything split end Aaron Cox, who



Quarterback Daniel Ford

was a high draft pick.

So, Nebraska will face a young team at least concerning players who were effective against the Huskers in last year's nailbiter.

Despite losing All-American guard

Randall McDaniel, the offensive line should be solid with three returning starters back. ASU coaches claim, although NU will be their first big test, that they have offensive talent. It just hasn't been proven.

On defense, the picture is bleaker. Three of four starters in the defensive line graduated, and two of their replacements are slated to be former walkons. The linebacking corps is talented but *very* young: no seniors, one junior, and the rest are either sophomores or freshmen.

ASU's defensive strength is in the secondary, where three of four starters return, including many seniors. Coach Marmie has great kickers: punter Mike Schuh averaged 43 yards a kick last year, and Alan Zandejas made 15 of 19 field goals.

Strengths: Defensive secondary and kicking.

Weaknesses: Defensive line.

Key Matchups: Steve Taylor versus everybody. Unless he can get some more offensive support, he'll be one tired QB. ■

The Report Card

NU	POS.	ASU
A	QB	B
B	RB	B
A-	OL	B+
B+	E	B
B	DL	C+
A	LB	B-
B+	DB	B+
B+	K	A

Nebraska vs. Arizona State

When: 6:08 p.m. (Central) Saturday, Sept. 24

Where: Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Neb.

Media Coverage: ESPN and Husker Radio Network.

Sun Devil Facts: Coach — Larry Marmie (Eastern Kentucky, 1965) enters his first year as a head coach at ASU. He has a 2-0 career record, all at Arizona State. School Colors — Maroon and Gold. Nickname — Sun Devils. Conference — Pacific 10. Basic Offense — I and split back. Basic Defense — multiple.

The Series: It's tied at 1-1 with Nebraska winning last year's game, 35-28 as the Huskers rallied behind Keith Jones' 62-yard run late in the fourth quarter. The first meeting was in the 1975

Fiesta Bowl as ASU upset Nebraska, 17-14, to finish 12-0 and No. 2 in the wire service polls. ASU has never played in Memorial Stadium before. ASU head coach Marmie had been an assistant coach for 20 years, and for the past nine, he has been with schools that have gone to a bowl. When Nebraska played ASU in Tempe last year and Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl (also in Tempe) it marked the first time the Cornhuskers have played two away games in one stadium in the same year. Nebraska has a 19-11-6 all-time record versus the Pac-10. In four previous games against Pac-10 teams, NU quarterback Steve Taylor has averaged just under 200 total offense yards each outing.

COACH'S EVALUATION

Tom Osborne

Huskers Regroup For ASU

"There's not a whole lot I can say other than we just got a good whipping. UCLA was knocking us off the ball, and they were able to break some big plays. I'm pleased that we didn't quit, and we came back in the second half. But we were unable to stop them several times, and the interceptions hurt us.

"We were hoping that we could be stronger and run right at them. We thought we were ready to play. We had a good week of practice, but we didn't get the job done.

"On a couple of those long runs, their running backs showed a lot of balance. Eric Ball has great balance. We thought he did when we tried to recruit him (out of Ypsilanti, Mich.).

"We weren't sure how strong we'd be inside (on defense) this season. And we didn't tackle well at times. We tackled kind of poorly on that first touchdown. It's hard for me to understand.

"That punt return (by Darryl Henley for a touchdown) was disastrous. That's something we usually do instead of the other team.

"I'd almost rather play right away instead of having an open date so that we could get this behind us. But the week off does give us a chance to heal up. If we had had to play the next Saturday, there would have been a very good chance that both Sam Schmidt and Lance Lewis wouldn't have been ready to play at fullback. Sam's got a bad ankle and Lance has a bruised neck. There's even a chance they might not be ready for Arizona State.

"We had some good things happen against UCLA. There were some bright spots. We got thumped a little up front, but I think Willie Griffin held up okay at times. Paul Brungardt played reasonably well. And Lawrence Pete did fairly good. But other than that we got pushed around a little.

"Since then, Steve Taylor has missed some practice time with a sprained ankle, but he should be okay for Arizona State. Griffin missed some

time with a strained knee. And, of course, our two fullbacks haven't practiced much at all. Having the two weeks will allow us to get some people ready at fullback.

"Looking back, we felt UCLA may be as tough a team as we will see this year. UCLA has great talent. Obviously, we weren't ready for that kind of

start, and UCLA looked very well prepared and ready. They turned short plays into long gains and into touchdowns.

"We have plenty of things to work on, and it will be a challenge to our team to see how we bounce back. Arizona State has a good program, and they gave us a very tough time last year.

"We'll probably find out a lot about our team against Arizona State." ■

SUN DEVIL 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

SE	85 Chris Garrett	6-4	220	sr.
	4 Leland Adams	5-9	176	jr.
LT	64 Fedel Underwood	6-5	297	jr.
	73 Mark Hayes	6-7	280	so.
LG	71 Doug Larson	6-4	256	sr.
	61 Jeff White	6-3	261	fr.
C	56 Eddie Grant	6-3	256	jr.
	53 Steve Spurling	6-3	266	sr.
RG	50 Scott Claypoole	6-3	263	sr.
	67 Tony Sherman	6-5	268	jr.
RT	66 Scott Kirby	6-6	276	sr.
	72 Tim Kirby	6-5	260	fr.
TE	91 Gary Knudson	6-4	247	sr.
	88 Ryan McReynolds	6-7	239	so.
QB	7 Daniel Ford	6-2	217	sr.
	10 Paul Justin	6-5	193	so.
FB	20 Kirk Wendorf	6-0	214	sr.
	22 Kelvin Fisher	5-10	195	fr.
TB	31 Vic Cahoon	5-9	187	so.
	43 Bruce Perkins	6-2	215	jr.
FL	17 Tony Johnson	5-11	176	sr.
	82 Lynn James	6-2	195	jr.
PK	8 Alan Zendejas	5-8	200	jr.

DEFENSE

DE	99 Tim Landers	6-3	242	fr.
	94 Saute Sapolu	6-3	245	sr.
NG	97 Derek Zazueta	6-4	262	jr.
	68 Israel Stanley	6-2	242	fr.
DT	83 Shane Collins	6-4	255	fr.
	54 Andre Lacey	6-2	278	so.
DE	69 Greg Joelson	6-3	250	jr.
	95 Bryan Hooks	6-4	254	fr.
LB	21 Rodney Dillard	6-2	228	sr.
	45 Terence Johnson	6-4	221	so.
ILB	47 Drew Metcalf	6-2	223	so.
	35 Scott Walker	6-1	225	jr.
ILB	59 Mark Tingstad	6-1	211	jr.
	49 Scott Woodford	6-1	220	fr.
SS	26 Robby Boyd	6-2	211	sr.
	5 Floyd Easley	5-10	186	sr.
LC	25 Eddie Stokes	5-8	157	jr.
	41 Mark Smith	6-0	191	jr.
RC	13 Lawrence Hubley	5-10	176	jr.
	9 Jeff Joseph	5-11	185	sr.
FS	29 Nathan LaDuke	5-10	190	so.
	24 Floyd Fields	6-2	199	so.
P	6 Mike Schuh	6-1	192	sr.

CORNHUSKER 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

SE	19 Morgan Gregory	6-0	185	jr.
	81 Chip Bahe	5-10	175	so.
LT	62 Bob Sledge	6-2	270	sr.
	78 Tom Punt	6-8	270	so.
LG	65 Andy Keeler	6-3	265	sr.
	53 Mark Antonietti	6-2	265	sr.
C	68 Jake Young	6-5	260	jr.
	59 Jeff Anderson	6-4	270	jr.
RG	76 John Nelson	6-1	260	jr.
	69 Bill Bobbora	6-3	260	jr.
RT	70 Doug Glaser	6-7	295	jr.
	77 Terry Eyman	6-6	265	so.
TE	43 Todd Millikan	6-3	245	sr.
	85 Monte Kratzstein	6-4	225	sr.
QB	9 Steve Taylor	6-0	205	sr.
	14 Gerry Gdowski	6-1	195	jr.
FB	29 Bryan Carpenter	5-9	200	jr.
	34 Tyreese Knox	5-10	215	sr.
IB	32 Ken Clark	5-9	200	jr.
	20 Terry Rodgers	5-7	170	so.
WB	21 Richard Bell	6-0	195	jr.
	31 Jamie Worden	5-10	175	sr.
PK	16 Chris Drennan	5-9	180	jr.
	44 Gregg Barrios	5-8	180	so.

DEFENSE

OLB	89 Broderick Thomas	6-3	235	sr.
	42 Jeff Mills	6-3	220	jr.
LT	84 Willie Griffin	6-3	275	sr.
	56 Joe Sims	6-4	265	so.
NG	96 Lawrence Pete	6-1	270	so.
	74 Mike Murray	5-10	240	jr.
RT	95 Paul Brungardt	6-7	255	so.
	91 Kent Wells	6-5	285	jr.
OLB	93 Jon Marco	6-1	220	sr.
	88 Mike Croel	6-3	215	so.
SLB	55 Randall Jobman	6-3	230	jr.
	47 LeRoy Etienne	6-1	230	jr.
WLB	40 Pat Tyrance	6-2	230	so.
	49 Chris Caliendo	6-3	240	jr.
LCB	8 Lorenzo Hicks	6-0	195	sr.
	28 John Custard	5-9	165	sr.
RCB	5 Tahaun Lewis	5-11	170	so.
	10 Charles Fryar	5-10	175	sr.
SS	17 Reggie Cooper	6-3	200	so.
	23 Mark Blazek	6-2	200	sr.
S	4 Tim Jackson	6-0	190	sr.
	23 Mark Blazek	6-2	200	sr.
P	46 John Kroeker	5-11	175	sr.
	48 Scott Beckler	6-0	185	so.

Tyreese Knox may be tried at fullback for the Arizona State game because injuries to Bryan Carpenter, Sam Schmidt and freshman Lance Lewis have left the Huskers short at the position. There has even been talk of freshman Andre McDuffy of Euless, Tex., or Tim Johnk, a sophomore from Schuyler, who is redshirting, working into the fullback position.

Former Nebraska scholarship winner Tim Herman is playing tight end at Peru State in Peru, Neb. Herman, a former Defensive Player of the Year at Lincoln Southeast, sat out last year as a Proposition 48 casualty and transferred to Peru State at the start of this year. Kevin Ramaekers, an all-stater from Norfolk Catholic, is enrolled at Nebraska this year and expects to gain his eligibility (Prop 48) by next summer. Another scholarship winner, Victor Stachmus, Nebraska's first scholarship recruit from Oklahoma, is planning to enroll at Nebraska next January. Stachmus was hospitalized with leukemia late last spring. He said he has recovered quickly and hopes to work out with the Cornhuskers in winter conditioning and in the spring.

Jim Wanek, a 1986 scholarship player, has moved back to offensive line, where he was until the final two weeks of spring ball. He had moved to middle guard when Lawrence Pete quit the team. But Pete since returned and has played considerably in Nebraska's last two games.

Tom Osborne said Nebraska may simplify its defenses after the early collapse against UCLA. NU had used a dime defense, but no nickel, extensively against the passing of Utah State.

NU defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said, "the dime defense scares the heck out of me. It's saved us some, but the biggest plays against us so far have come against the dime, too."

Nebraska will play its second night game in history when it plays host to Arizona State in a 6 p.m. game Sept. 24.

Nebraska will be working hard on both ends of the punting game. The Cornhuskers led the nation in punt returns two years ago and were



Tyreese Knox

among the leaders last year, but are averaging less than 20 yards per kickoff return this year. The punt return for a touchdown by UCLA's Darryl Henley was the first against Nebraska since 1964.

Dave Finn has been appointed in charge of Nebraska's film and taping crew.

Recruiting visits have already begun at Nebraska. Junior Bryant, a blue chip defensive tackle at Creighton Prep, attended the Utah State game. Nebraska also did plenty of advance work looking at possible recruits in Los Angeles while at the UCLA game.

Although Chris Drennan missed his first extra point kick in 58 attempts against UCLA, he has apparently won back the starting job as place kicker from Gregg Barrios who filled in for him at the Kickoff Classic and kicked a record three field goals.

Willie Griffin, who was a tight end,

an offensive tackle, and a defensive end, is now solidly in place for a senior season at defensive tackle. "He's awful strong and hard to move," McBride said.

Nebraska fared well academically the last year with only one player not making grades.

Broderick Thomas, who said he'll let his playing do his talking, said the Nebraska defense will come back better than ever after the loss to UCLA. "It was a tough game and we learned our lesson. We'll get better."

Freshman quarterback Mike Grant continues to get rave reviews from Osborne and freshman coach Shane Thorell. Grant has plenty of speed, size and strength, both coaches said, and he's picking up the systems well.

Former Cornhusker defensive back Brian Washington is the second ex-Husker starting in the pros. Washington plays for Cleveland. Brian Davis is a starting cornerback for Washington.

All of the steroid hysteria stirred by UCLA Coach Terry Donahue, brought out the fact only two Cornhuskers have tested positively for the muscle enhancing drug in five years of testing. Neither player was a starter and one player was suspended from the team, Osborne said.

Nebraska outside linebacker Jon Marco has recovered from a hand injury and is playing at full speed.

Nebraska's defense will be looking for more speed in the secondary in the future. "We've got to make that a primary consideration in recruiting to go along with our new coverage philosophy," NU defensive backs coach George Darlington said.

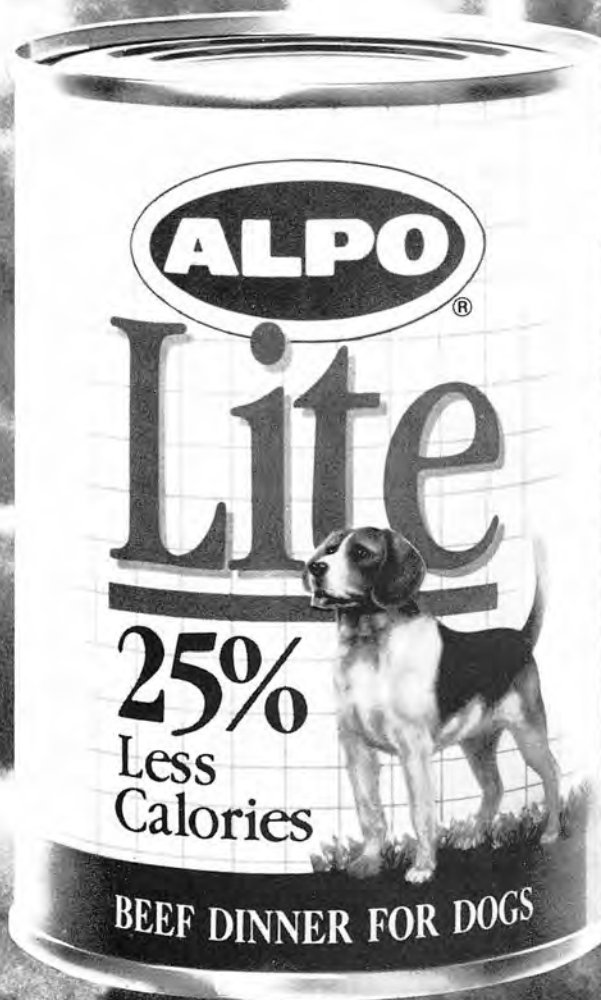
Tom Punt, Bill Bobbora and John Roschal have backed up the offensive line, spelling starters Andy Keeler, Bob Sledge and John Nelson, but there is still a search on to back up right tackle Doug Glaser, who played the entire game at UCLA. Glaser and Steve Taylor were the only NU players to go the distance without a substitute.

Taylor said he wants to improve his passing and plans on spending extra time with the receivers. ■

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Out of Sight Freshmen

DESPITE LOSING SOME STARTS TO THE VARSITY,
NU'S 1988 JV TEAM LOOKS VERY GOOD.

A lot of the talk Shane Thorell hears is who he doesn't have on the Nebraska freshman team this year.

For the record, freshman scholar-

ship recruits Lance Lewis, fullback; David Jensen, defensive tackle; William Washington, tight end; Tyrone Hughes, wingback; Travis Hill, out-

side linebacker; Tyrone Byrd, defensive back and David White, outside linebacker, are with the varsity and will probably redshirt.

Three other NU recruits are also missing. Victor Stachmus will not enroll at NU until next semester because of a bout with leukemia. Kevin Ramaekers and Ernie Beler did not qualify under the NCAA Proposition 48 guidelines.

Despite the long missing persons list, the freshman team is loaded with plenty of talent, Thorell said.

"It will definitely be a better team than a year ago. It will be much more explosive on offense and can be very good on defense," he said.

Thorell, whose team finished 2-3 last year, said he hopes to improve on the first losing record for a Nebraska freshman team since 1957.

"The record doesn't mean much. Coach Osborne knows what we had and didn't have last year and he realizes the talent wasn't all there last year," Thorell said.

The primary reason for the change in freshman teams recently is the fact that Osborne has had a change of philosophy in that he would like some players to have four years of eligibility on the varsity.

"Coach Osborne sees Broderick Thomas and Steve Taylor as three-year starters for the varsity and he realizes that they spent a season on the freshman team," Thorell said. "If they had redshirted as freshmen, they might have started four years."

Last year, scholarship recruits Mickey Joseph, Leodis Flowers, Chris Garrett and Nate Turner all redshirted rather than play freshman football.

Another reason is that the freshman team is comprised of 60 players, and five years ago there were up to



Shane Thorell is again sending studs to Tom Osborne. This year, however, Thorell has plenty left.

90 players on the team.

Another problem is that if any of the 60 players are exceptionally good, they will be moved to the varsity team.

There are already some likely candidates for promotion.

Quarterback Mike Grant has been a pleasant surprise for the Nebraska coaching staff.

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound Florida native threw for three touchdowns and ran for another in the NU freshman opener last Monday.

"He's been throwing very well and I think he'll be in the quarterback race in the near future," Thorell said. "He is very strong and has a very live arm and a good touch. He runs very well, too."

Grant said that as he learns the system he feels he will play better. "When I first got here, I wasn't sure of anything. It was like learning it all over again.

"But since we ran the same kind of offense most of my high school years and with the help of Tony Davis, who coached me in high school and here, I'm picking it up," he said.

Backup quarterbacks are John McMillen of Lewis Central in Council Bluffs, Ia., and scholarship freshman Bart James of Tempe, Ariz.

"We have the arms and we have some top receivers with Jon Bostick (Bellevue, Wash.) and John Parella (Grand Island Central Catholic). Bostick was the Offensive Player of the Year in Washington last year and Parella was a walkon after he was denied a scholarship at Colorado.

"At running back we have some very good people in Jerry Kleidosty, Scott Baldwin and Andre McDuffy to name a few," Thorell said.

Kleidosty, a fullback from Omaha South, is a walkon. Baldwin, a scholarship player from Roselle, N.J., has been a devastating I-back through the summer scrimmages and the season opener.

McDuffy, a scholarship freshman from Euless, Tex., didn't play football his junior year because he had just moved back to Texas from New York. But he gained more than 800 yards on 120 carries his senior year. He

started the fall camp at fullback but has been switched to I-back.

Some of the top offensive linemen include center Terris Chorney from Saskatchewan, Canada; scholarship freshmen Scott Peterson of Peoria, Ariz., and Chris Ybarra of Fontana, Calif.

"We have plenty of depth with some quality walkons," Thorell said. He mentioned Chris Zyzda of Sioux City, Ia., Mike Johnston of Omaha Gross and Jason Becker of Jefferson City, Mo., as three of the top walkons.

"It'll be an exciting offense that can throw and run," Thorell said.

Despite the long missing persons list, the freshman team is loaded with plenty of talent.

Defensively, the junior Cornhuskers have the potential to be devastating as they showed in scoring two touchdowns and setting up two others inside the 5-yard line in the season opener against St. Thomas.

Linebacker Mike Petko, a scholarship freshman from Anaheim, Calif., Jamie Liewer of Atkinson West Holt and Jeremiah Clark of Mesa, Ariz., are three of the most impressive freshman defensive players, Thorell said.

"Petko shows a lot of range, aggressiveness and will be a player to be reckoned with soon," he said.

Defensive tackles Clark and Liewer have shown speed, ability and agility to play major college football already, Thorell said. Clark had five tackles, including three for losses, in the season opener.

Walkon Paul Wightman of Tampa, Fla., and Bob McGriff of Solana Beach, Calif., join Petko as a matched set at the linebacker position. Wightman, whose brother plays at Wayne State in Nebraska, sent film and told Nebraska coaches he wanted to try to

play with the Cornhuskers. "He'll get a good look," Thorell said.

Strong safety Darin Duin of Fargo, N.D., has been the most recent surprise of the fall camp, Thorell said. "Maybe it just took him some time to get used to playing defense, but he's become so much more physical lately, he's going to help a lot."

Duin, a sprint champion in North Dakota, played most of his high school career on offense, but said he is starting to feel comfortable on defense.

"I'm just starting to get the feel of the defense. I think we'll be pretty good," Duin said.

Steve Carmer of Wahoo, Neb., is picking up the free safety position well and Tyrone Legette of Columbia, S.C., has been a standout at cornerback, Thorell said.

"Tyrone has a lot of ability and fits in well," Thorell said. "He kind of reminds you of Charles Fryar in his build and the way he plays.

"The South Carolina people kind of overlooked him and when they heard we got him they said they thought they might have made a mistake," Thorell said.

Although the Nebraska freshmen frolicked in an 86-3 opening win over St. Thomas, Thorell said the competition will get much better as the five-home-game season progresses.

"Bethany JV's will be better than last year and the final three games — Air Force JVs, UNO JVs and Waldorf Junior College — will be very tough," he said.

"We can't start thinking we're better than we really are," he said. "The defense needs work on technique and the offensive line needs more consistency.

"We've got a ways to go by working on the little things, but all in all we're not bad," he said. "If the six or so scholarship players who are not on our team were with us we'd be better, sure, but this is a pretty good team in spite of that.

"We had to keep things pretty simple against St. Thomas because the score got out of hand so quick, but I don't think that'll happen that easily again this year," he said. ■

LUCK.



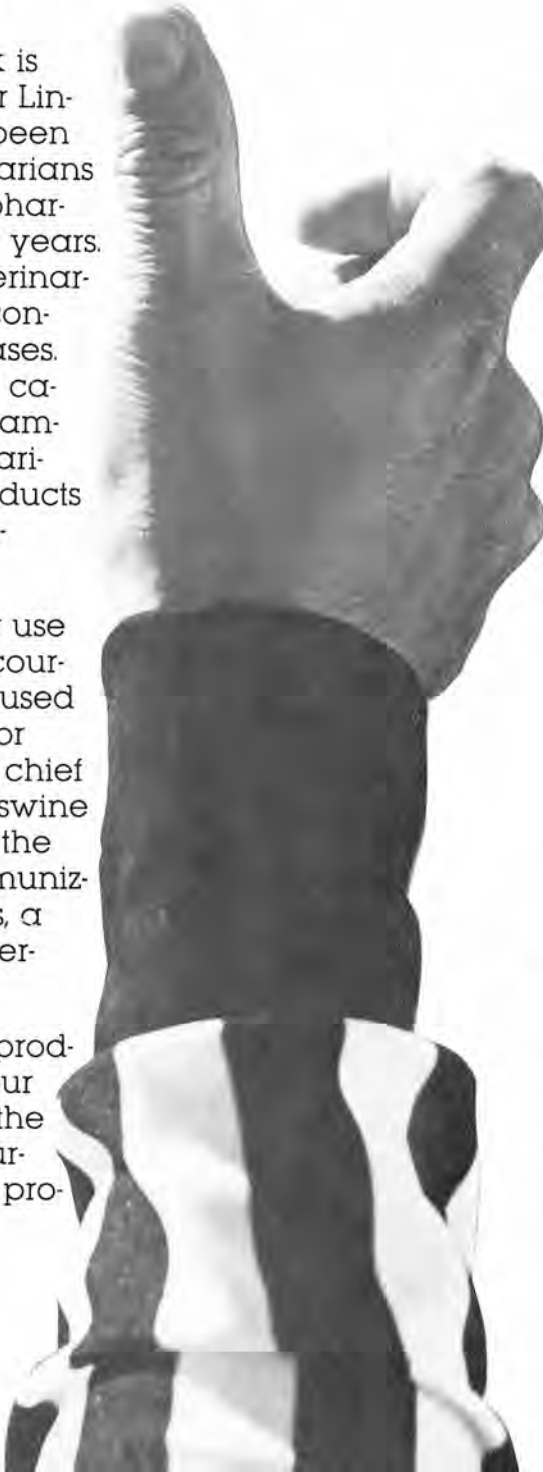
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St. Thomas 86'ed by Junior Huskers

Mike Grant has his doubts, but he left no doubters after his performance in leading the Nebraska freshman junior varsity team to its season opening win.

Grant completed three passes — all for touchdowns — he ran six times for 67 yards and led the Cornhuskers to an 86-3 victory over the St. Thomas junior varsity Monday before 10,000 fans at Memorial Stadium.

The fact that Nebraska ran just seven offensive plays and scored 31 points in the first quarter didn't assuage the freshman from Brandon, Fla.

"I've got a lot of things to work on," said Grant, one of the largest quarterback recruits in the country last year at 6-foot-2, 200-pounds.

"I was disappointed I bobbled the ball a couple of times and that made me pretty angry with myself," he said.

But his first bobble was turned into a 33-yard touchdown run on Nebraska's second play of the game. It followed a 16-yard burst by I-back Scott Baldwin on Nebraska's first play.

Grant's second bobble preceeded a 47-yard touchdown pass to Jon Bostick on Nebraska's third play of the game.

"I thought our line blocked well and the receivers, especially Bostick, made some nice catches," he said. "But my footwork and my timing wasn't what I wanted from myself."

Nebraska freshman coach Shane Thorell said there were many things for the Cornhuskers to improve before the next game, despite the fact no Nebraska team had ever scored more points against an opponent in football.

"We had too many little mistakes — bobbled snaps, penalties — and we don't want to get a false sense of security from this game," he said. "Our defense needs work on techniques, like tackling too high and making sure they wrap somebody up."

Despite the "problems," Nebraska's defense allowed just four first downs in the first half and limited St. Thomas to 47 yards of total offense in the first two quarters.

The Nebraska freshman defense, led by walkon linebacker Paul Wightman who had 10 tackles, and scholarship freshman Jeremiah Clark, who had three tackles for losses, threw St. Thomas for 58 yards in losses in the game.

Darin Duin, who starred on offense at Fargo, N.D., last year, blocked two St. Thomas punts. The first one set up a 1-yard touchdown run by Baldwin. The second block was recovered by teammate Bob McGriff in the endzone for a touchdown.

Defensive back Tyrone Legette of Columbia, S.C., returned an interception 27 yards for another touchdown and Scott Tingelhoff of Wahoo, Neb., returned an interception 23 yards to set up a touchdown run by Jerry Kleidosty.

"I think the defense was anxious to show what it could do against someone besides their own team," said Duin. "I think we've all come to like the hitting aspect and we wanted to show that we've learned something."

"The thing is we can't get too high about this game because the competition will get better," he said.

Perhaps the strangest play of

the 12-touchdown Labor Day frolic was a play that didn't count.

The center snap on Nebraska's first punt attempt of the game sailed over punter Chuck Humphrey's head some 15 yards to the Nebraska 25. The ball squirted away from Humphrey and then away from four St. Thomas players back to the NU 18.

Andre McDuffy, a scholarship fullback-I-back from Euless, Tex., broke through the pack and picked up the ball at the east sideline. He immediately cut across field to the west, cut back again and raced 82 yards into the endzone untouched.

A clipping call on Nebraska nullified the play, but St. Thomas head freshman coach Dick Reinhart said it was the most exciting play he'd ever seen.

"It showed a lot of hustle and desire and I told him (McDuffy) that was something to be proud of," he said.

Bostick and Odell's Kolin Haecker paced the NU receivers with 73 and 55 yards in receptions, respectively. Haecker grabbed a 27-yard touchdown pass from walkon John McMillen.

McDuffy led the NU backs with 68 yards on eight carries, while Grant picked up 67 yards and Kleidosty 58. Paul Van Housen, who played eight-man football at Polk-Hordville last year, rushed for 56 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

NU kicker Bob Hoover was one of the busiest players of the day, kicking a 42-yard field goal and eight extra points.

The Nebraska freshmen will face Bethany, Kan., junior varsity in Memorial Stadium Sept. 19. ■

Heisman Hype

SOME SCHOOLS MUST SELL HARD TO GET A HEISMAN.
OTHERS, LIKE NU, HARDLY SELL AT ALL.

Any reputable college football publicist prides himself on his credibility with the media. Maybe that's the best reason why there is less hype involved in the selection process of the Heisman Trophy winner — named each December as the premier college football player in the land.

The Heisman, of course, is the biggest bauble of them all. More prestigious, more coveted, and certainly more ballyhooed than any other post-season, individual accomplishment — the Outland, the Lombardi, the Butkus or the O'Brien trophies.

The award is named for John W. Heisman, longtime football coach and innovator at eight colleges. He died in 1936, one year after halfback Jay Berwanger of Chicago U. was informed by a telegram from the Downtown Athletic Club in New York City that he was the first recipient of college football's top prize.

Heisman was president of the Downtown AC at the time of his death. The trophy was re-named as a memorial to him.

A panel of almost one thousand sportswriters and sportscasters across

the nation does the voting. Cutesy preseason flyers, complete with rhyming or menacing nicknames, statistical data, and glowing endorsements — as well as other assorted gimmickry produced by some misguided sports information directors — don't cut it with the Heisman selectors. In fact, more often than not, they're a turnoff.

Don Bryant, the University of Nebraska's longtime, congenial, capable SID and assistant athletic director, recalls his own initial reaction in his sportswriting days.

"I'd get these goofy flyers, and I'd never vote for the guy. I realize some schools feel they must do it, to get attention, but most of the media regard those things as so much garbage. If I tried it they'd say, 'Fox has lost his mind.'"

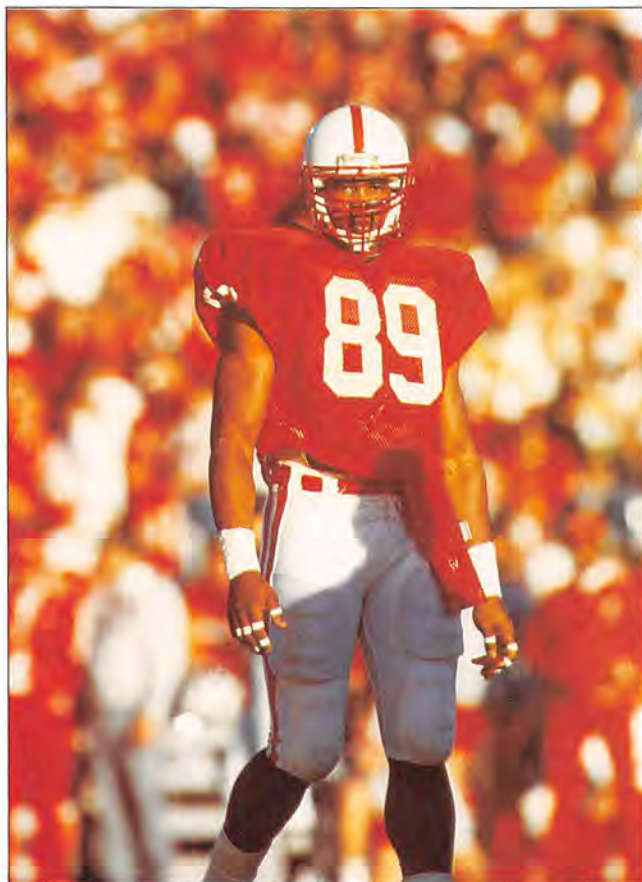
Despite the SID lobbyists, and lately some of the players themselves with their "I'm the greatest" quotes, Bryant thinks that the Heisman pickers do a conscientious job.

"Through the years, the best players usually have won it," "Fox" says. "We tell our top kids, 'We can't orchestrate it for you. You've got to go out and do it on the field.'"

Sure, *anyone* can win the Heisman, or the Outland, or the Lombardi. But note, please, how frequently the prominent candidates are linked with the traditional football powerhouses — Notre Dame, Alabama, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Miami, Penn State, Michigan, Ohio State, Southern Cal and Texas — for starters.

Consistent winners all, these football giants enjoy tremendous national *visibility* — a visibility enhanced by television's huge impact over the last 20 years.

Broderick Thomas has the credentials and potential to be Nebraska's fourth Outland Trophy winner this decade.



Basically, these institutions are not busy blantly selling themselves. Yet, there exists another fringe group who feels they must "market" their product.

"Actually, to be candid and not boastful," say Mike Treps, Oklahoma's perceptive SID, "we don't have to promote our people because everybody (in the media) does it for them.

"More recently, we've been fortunate to have five or six headliners each spring who've been featured in the nation's preseason magazines — *Street & Smith*, *Game Plan*, *Playboy*, etc."

It's a given that high-powered football programs perpetuate a healthy, thriving image. Those teams have consistent identity as a Top 10 tenant, or a national championship contender. They are always in the bowl picture. They are always courted by the TV and cable networks in their ratings rivalry. They are led by most of the nation's elite coaches.

Consider that among the currently active coaches, the top four with the best winning percentages are OU's Barry Switzer, Nebraska's Tom Osborne, Penn State's Joe Paterno and Michigan's Bo Schembechler.

Moreover, the next six winningest coaches are close to being household names among the sports gentry: LaVell Edwards, Brigham Young; Danny Ford, Clemson; Terry Donahue, UCLA; Pat Dye, Auburn; Vince Dooley, Georgia; and Bobby Bowden, Florida State.

Getting back to the Heisman derby, both Treps and Bryant come off as cool, low-key professionals, highly respected by the media, and certainly well-versed in the substance and subtleties of developing national contacts for their prime athletes. Since 1985, Bryant also has taken over additional duties as director of the Bob Devaney Sports Center. His associate SID, Tom Simons, also coordinates the total office functions with his assistants, Chris Bouma, Nick Joos and Terry Beek.

Treps has four full-time aides, and one of them, Larry McAllister, is responsible for all media interview appointments and conferences.

"At Nebraska, Coach Osborne stresses a very strong team concept," Bryant says. "We try to fit our philosophy to what's best for our program and tradition.

"We've had two Heisman trophy winners — Johnny Rodgers and Mike Rozier — during my tenure, and we didn't do anything special for them. Sure, we'd carry an update or a blurb on them in every release, feature them on schedule cards or a poster, and be sure to circulate film clips to TV stations and networks, but all that is routine."

"The Fox" failed to mention that his Huskers have had more Outland winners (five) and Lombardis (three)

Quarterback Steve Taylor is a solid Heisman candidate, while linebacker Broderick Thomas has his sights on the Lombardi and Butkus hardware.

than any other school. Oklahoma is in second in this category with four Outlands and two Lombardis.

Obviously, Bryant and Treps have been productive in helping their respective institutions reap more than their fair share of the national individual awards — plus All-American and All-Academic recognition.

This fall the beat goes on. In Lincoln, quarterback Steve Taylor is a solid Heisman candidate, while linebacker Broderick Thomas has his sights on the Lombardi and Butkus hardware. Both are off and running handsomely after excellent performances in the Cornhuskers' 23-14 Kickoff Classic win over Texas A&M in the 1988 televised inaugural game at East Rutherford, N.J.

Don't discount, either, the Huskers' splendid LeRoy Etienne, who's poised and waiting in the wings for his shot

at national acclaim.

The strongside linebacker and leading 1987 tackler has superb credentials. Significantly, the 1988 Nebraska brochure lists No. 47 right behind Taylor and Thomas in the Cornhusker constellation of headliners with the notation, "... and will be a candidate for national honors in 1988."

As for the Sooners, quarterback Jamelle Holieway needs only a stable knee, following his surgery and rehabilitation, and the chance to recapture his former brilliance, to join the Heisman chase. Going for the Outland is Anthony Phillips, the enormously talented offensive guard, who's also on the rebound after knee surgery, in quest of his fourth straight All-Big Eight medallion.

Holieway's status, Treps admits, has created a dilemma.

"With two weeks to go before our opener, we're still not sure," he says. "We can't really go overboard on him, and put all our eggs in one basket."

On Phillips, Treps is much more optimistic.

"His surgery last spring not only repaired the knee, but they cleaned out the joint, and he's probably better off.

"Anthony's probably the best offensive lineman we've had in years. Sure, the injury puts him behind, but it bothered me that John Hadley of *The Sporting News* didn't even put him on his preseason All-American team this year. Last year he was a second team All-American choice in their selections.

"I called John and chided him about ignoring Phillips because of his surgery, without even giving us a call and talking to us.

"I know we're not supposed to call and chew out a writer, but I think it's justifiable simply to say, 'Hey, you made a mistake.'"

The more "marquee" players at any school, the greater volume of media heat.

Treps is of the opinion that "at Oklahoma we probably have the opportunity to make players more available (for media interviews) than at most schools.



Mike Rozier enjoyed the best of both worlds; he had great stats and the great Husker tradition.

"Today's players really are well aware of what the media can do for them," Treps says. "In conducting player and coach interviews, our office was complimented a while back in a survey of Big Eight media by *Sooners Illustrated*. One quote said that 'at Oklahoma, they make it (media coordination) happen.'"

Meanwhile in Lincoln, Bryant recognizes that matching up media requests for player interviews is an important facet of the SID's everyday routine. But hold it — the pressure can be traumatic for everyone concerned.

"In 1983 we had three superstars on that club," recounts Bryant. "Rozier, Turner Gill and Irving Fryar. . . and that created problems. It was the toughest fall I ever endured here. From August on, we'd average 20 phone calls a day from media, seeking interviews. So we just started arranging press conferences for the three of them as a group.

"After every game, we'd bring all three to the interview area. On road games, we'd have to limit their exposure, or we'd never make the plane.

"It got so tough that late in the season the players became edgy, the coaches were edgy, and the Sports Information Office was shell-shocked."

At UCLA, officials there already have undertaken to ease the media

crunch on their Heisman hopeful. Ex-OU quarterback Troy Aikman figures to make a big splash in the Heisman pool. And the Bruins plan to limit his availability to the media-at-large to a half-hour press conference each Monday morning during the season.

Indeed, talented teams can have another problem, too, if two spotlighted players are vying for national awards. Oklahoma encountered this obstacle twice. In 1956, Notre Dame's Golden Boy, Paul Hornung, won the Heisman with 1,066 points. Sooners Tommy McDonald (973) and Jerry Tubbs (924) placed 3-4 in the balloting (Johnny Majors was runnerup). Together, the OU duo totaled 1,697 points, so the split vote doomed both.

Likewise in 1971, Auburn quarterback Pat Sullivan cornered the Heisman, beating out Cornell's Ed Marinaro. But Oklahoma's Jack Mildren and Greg Pruitt finished high in the voting. Again, the divided vote *might* have been the difference.

Husker fans can't forget the national championship team of 1972 and its dynamic, two-time All-Americans, Johnny Rodgers and Rich Glover.

"Rodgers did get into serious trouble as a freshman," Bryant recalls, "and some writers told me, 'I can't bring myself to vote for him as a Heisman candidate.'"

"My stock response was, 'Okay, I

can't blame you, but you gotta consider Rich Glover.'

"Rich was also a strong candidate for the Outland and/or the Lombardi awards. We took the position that we had the two best football players in the country."

The Fox's logic and persuasive charm must have helped. Rodgers, whom Don regards as "the best football player I've ever seen — a helluv-an athlete," won the Heisman. Glover captured both the Outland and Lombardi trophies and was third in the Heisman race.

For the record, tackle Larry Jacobson was Nebraska's first Outland winner in 1971. A decade later, center Dave Rimington was a two-time pick (1981-82), while guard Dean Steinkuhler gave the Huskers three straight Outlands in '83.

Rimington picked up the Lombardi in '82, Steinkuhler in '83.

Starting with halfback Billy Vessels' Heisman trophy year in 1952, Oklahoma running backs have latched on to the prized Holy Grail three times. Steve Owens did it in 1969. Billy Sims was a Heisman honoree in 1978, and narrowly missed being the trophy's only repeater since Ohio State's Archie Griffin (1974-75).

In 1979 the Heisman voting panel submitted their ballots to be tabulated with two games still left on the OU schedule. Sims finished the season with a flourish — 282 rushing yards against Missouri, and 247 in the Nebraska finale.

A valiant, but meaningless effort, it turned out. USC's Charlie White got the Heisman call — Sims was second. The next year, the Heisman voting procedure was changed to include henceforth an extended deadline, encompassing all games.

All things being equal, does an Eastern challenger for a top national award get an automatic media edge? Like a Penn State or Pittsburgh or Syracuse football player, for instance?

Treps and Bryant respond to that query quickly: "Yeah."

"It's simply because there are more media back there," Treps says. "The population factor. . . you have so many major cities, with New York City as

the nation's communications hub. More metropolitan newspapers, news bureaus and electronic people are following and covering area college teams.

"If everything else is equal, I think the Eastern bloc has the advantage in pushing a Heisman or Outland candidate."

What about the public's increased awareness of collegiate football, due to the television industry's heavier concentration, since the NCAA's absolute control of TV scheduling was deregulated?

Oklahoma's Treps, a former radio and TV sportscaster, feels strongly that his office must be geared to respond to that trend.

"We have structured more than 50 percent of what we do to TV and electronic needs," he says. "Along with the networks, if you have a satellite, you can watch four or five college football games a week. Plus the cable networks, ESPN and WTSB, provide more sports to watch than ever before.

"We are a nation of viewers, and I've tried to take advantage of that. More people are aware of Brian Bosworth's earrings and haircut because they've seen them."

Bryant echoes Treps' belief. But as an ex-sportswriter, he also expresses abiding allegiance to the print media.

"Of course it's invaluable when a Keith Jackson (ABC-TV) or a Brent Musburger (CBS-TV) says, 'This guy is the best quarterback I've seen.' And when you're on TV you do get that kind of exposure.

"But so much of this business is based on personal contact with people, print and electronic, getting players and the media together one-on-one or in press conferences."

Don's sidekick, Simons, shares that notion.

"TV has become a much more significant medium for us," Simons says, "but the print side is still important, too. Granted, two or three dynamic plays on TV can make a real visual impact on the public. Our people, and fans everywhere, still talk about the TV replay of Johnny Rodgers' punt return against Oklahoma in 1971."

Rodgers truly made scads of brilli-

ant plays during his Cornhusker career. But how much did that one punt return serve as a springboard for his Heisman season of '72?

From his vantage point of many Heisman-watching years, Nebraska's Bryant cites Rodgers' achievement despite all odds as the athletic stuff

that Heisman winners must display.

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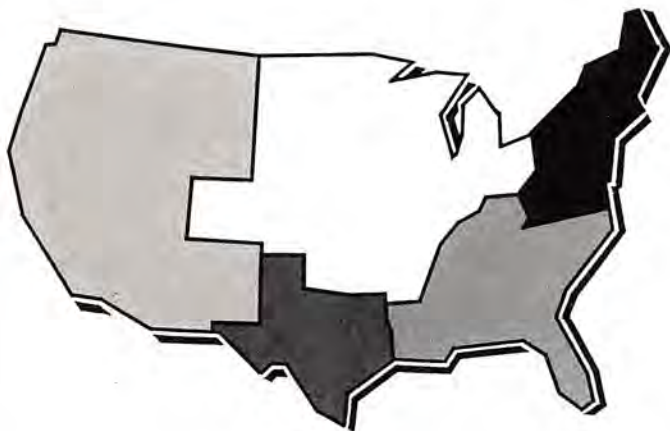
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RECRUITING BY REGIONS



Wake up! This is not the time to fall asleep, just because we're looking this week at wide receivers and tight ends. Nebraska certainly does get great receivers; look at Junior Miller. There is no denying that the Huskers don't scour the high school recruiting grounds as fanatically for receivers as they do for running backs. The option game *needs* lots of backs. But there's also no denying that a super-stud receiver can turn a powerful rushing offense into an awesome all-around attack. Receivers *are* important at Nebraska, especially tight ends.

Plus, let's remember that the following prep stars could someday appear on opposing Big Eight or non-conference foe rosters. If you like to keep track of folks like Miami, Southern Cal, UCLA, and other pass-happy powers, keep an eye on these guys because *they* will.

WEST

William Henry (6-foot-3, 180, 4.5) of Arroyo Grande, Calif., is considered one of the most talented wide receivers in the West and perhaps the nation. Perhaps. It's just that 1988 is not the Year of the Receiver in this region; the superstars are mostly in the south. Still, Henry is outstanding, having caught 70 passes for over 1,000 yards last year as a junior. He grabbed 47 — that's right, 47 — as a 10th grader. He's noted for his spectacular

catches. Great track speed. His size, of course, is outstanding. Schools of note include Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado, Washington and Washington State.

There's no clear-cut leader in the west, and Mike Caldwell (6-3, 195, 4.6) of San Ramon, Calif., could challenge as the best on the coast. He caught 54 passes for 680 yards and six touchdowns last year while also playing strong safety. He makes the hard catches look easy. Tough player, as you'd expect of a kid who also plays monster back. Super leaping ability. Schools of note include Brigham Young, Georgia, Nebraska, Arkansas, Notre Dame and the entire Pacific 10.

Joe Johnson (5-10, 180, 4.5) of Oakland is a multi-talented player who plays flanker, punts, kicks, wrestles and runs track. Johnson caught 18 passes for six touchdowns as a junior and has a 10.6 in the 100 meters to his credit. Schools of note include USC, Washington, Arizona State, California and Nebraska.

Brian Brown (6-2, 190, 4.6) of Yuba City, Calif., is another good-sized receiver — maybe not the fastest afoot, but solid. He averaged over 20 yards per catch on 63 receptions last year, when he got into the end zone a whopping 22 times. For the second year in a row, he had more than 1,000 receiving yards. Trouble is, Brown is a super all-around athlete, and there'll be some decision making as to what

position he plays; he could star in college secondaries. Schools of note include Arizona State, UCLA, Washington, Florida, Nebraska, Colorado and Stanford.

Tight ends, here we come. Brian Allen (6-4, 210, 4.65) of Newhall Hart, Calif., is probably the best tight end out yonder and possibly one of the best five in the country. He's a tad slender, but that didn't keep Allen from catching 45 passes for 675 yards and a dozen touchdowns last season. Has great athletic ability and could play college linebacker. Schools of note include UCLA, USC, Arizona, Arizona State and Washington.

Brian Ryder (6-4, 215, 4.7) of Huntington Beach, Calif., is another top-notch tight end, who caught 21 passes for 300 yards and three scores as a junior. Could be one of the better players at any position in the West. Schools of note include UCLA, USC, Notre Dame, Washington, Stanford and both Arizona schools.

THE MIDLANDS

Talent in this region is plentiful, and there's an abundance of super-superstars. At the wide receiver spot, some experts say Vance Ross (5-9, 160, 4.4) of Denver, Colo., is unstoppable in high school and should be the same in college. Ross caught 47 passes for over 1,000 receiving yards as a junior and has been compared to Johnny Rodgers. Size is only a slight drawback. Schools of note include Florida, Arizona, Arizona State, USC, LSU and San Diego State.

Another compact killer, Brian Howard (5-10, 165, 4.45) of Chicago, may be the best wide receiver in his section of the country. Could even be one of the nation's best 10. Caught 35 passes for 610 yards. Exceptional player. Schools of note are laying low, waiting for his grades to improve.

Another wide-out who could challenge as one of America's best is Ray Griggs (6-3, 180, 4.5) of Crete Monee, Ill., who played out of the wishbone last fall but still caught 17 passes for 250 yards and four touchdowns. He's also an excellent baseball and basketball player. Griggs claims

a 38-inch vertical leap. Great hands, smooth and accurate routes. Schools of note include Illinois, Miami, Michigan and UCLA.

That trio may well dominate the post-season All-American lists this winter at wide receiver, but there's more. Middle America is blessed with some of the very best tight ends, too.

For example, Tony McGee (6-4, 220, 4.65) of Terre Haute, Ind., rates right up there with the biggest of the big boys; a cinch All-American. Last year, McGee caught 31 passes for 543 yards and five touchdowns. Soft hands, good routes and the ability to break it long. Better-than-average blocker. Schools of note include Michigan, Miami, UCLA, Indiana and Syracuse. Trouble is, he's also a *great* basketballer.

The man with two first names, Joey Mickey (6-7, 240, 4.8) of Millwood, Okla., is considered one of the nation's best. Excellent blocker. Through last year, he had 21 touchdown receptions to his credit. Just a dominating player. Schools of note include USC, UCLA, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Georgia, Notre Dame. Also an outstanding basketballer.

A little further north, Roger Harper (6-4, 220, 4.7) of Columbus, Ohio, has the versatility to play tight end, wide receiver, linebacker, safety, you name it. In fact, he played all those positions and returned kicks, too, last fall when he caught 23 passes for 470 yards. Great football attitude and very coachable. Definite All-American material. Schools of note include Ohio State, Michigan, Purdue, USC and Miami.

These guys are definitely the cream of the Middle America crop.

SOUTHWEST

Usually known for its great running backs and linebackers, the Lone Star state can stake its claim in 1988 to some of the top high school receiving talent in the country.

It all starts with Kevin Williams (5-9, 170, 4.4) of Dallas. He caught 35 passes for almost 700 yards and 10 touchdowns last year, and whispers abound that he may well be the very

best wide receiver from sea to shining sea. Oh, say! Runs a 10.6 in the 100 meters and returned two punts last year for scores. A pretty nifty blocker as well, Williams is a tough, tough player. Schools of note include UCLA, Miami, Oklahoma State, Baylor, Texas A&M and Texas.

Derrick Duke (6-3, 190, 4.55) of Houston Reagan seems to have all the

physical tools. Duke caught 53 passes for over 1,000 yards last fall, including seven touchdowns. He's got great hands and speed, but his strength will need some improvement when he mixes it up with big-time secondaries. Can out jump anybody on the Hail Mary. Still learning the game. Could surprise this fall and jump into the All-American category. Schools of

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note include San Diego State, Purdue, Michigan and Duke.

Ed Henderson (5-11, 175, 4.5) of Port Arthur caught 41 passes for almost 800 yards last year and is considered definite Division I-A material. Very disciplined pass routes. Henderson is also an outstanding defensive back. Schools of note include Oklahoma, Purdue, Ohio State and SMU.

You've got to mention Nati Valdez (5-10, 160, 4.5) of Mission, Tex., because of his 104 receptions last year. That's right, one-zero-four. Good hands. Averaged a modest 10 yards per reception, though.

Now to the monsters. Tight end Steve Seagraves (6-4, 220, 4.8) of North Mesquite is generally regarded as the best at his position in Texas. Earth shakes when he blocks. That's his strong point, although he's more than capable as a pass-catcher (15 receptions last year in a ground at-

tack). Rarely drops a pass. Could sneak into the All-American limelight this season. With a little more upper-body strength, Seagraves could be awesome. Otherwise, no weaknesses. Schools of note include Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas A&M, Nebraska, Michigan and Notre Dame.

Some argue that Alan Webb (6-3, 220, 4.7) of Aledo, Tex., is Seagrave's equal when it comes to blocking. Webb's had plenty of practice. He plays for an awesome rushing team and wants to do the same in college. He'll have to get more passes thrown his way before he gets a lot of publicity, but Webb will be a dandy in college. Schools of note include Texas, Purdue, Georgia, Baylor, TCU and Arizona.

After that, the Texas tight ends drop off a notch, but don't overlook this guy: Pat Bates (6-4, 215, 4.65) of Galveston. Caught 29 passes for almost 800 yards last season and is just a su-

per athlete. Has played quarterback and safety. Bates has a 24-foot long jump to his credit as well as a 38-inch vertical leap. Great potential. Schools of note include UCLA, Michigan, Nebraska, Oklahoma State and Iowa.

SOUTHEAST

This is where most of the hosses are.

Florida is loaded with top-quality wide receivers, and Eric Turrall (5-11, 175, 4.4) of Tallahassee may be the best this year in the entire cosmos. He caught 27 passes for 409 yards and five touchdowns, averaged over 6 yards a carry rushing, averaged over 24 yards per punt return and 30 yards on kickoff returns. Scored a total of 15 touchdowns last year from five different positions. Turrall has already had eight kickoff returns for touchdowns, a Florida prep record. Schools of note include Florida State, Michi-

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gan, Alabama and North Carolina.

Horace Copeland (6-4, 190, 4.55) of Orlando is rated a close runner-up to Turrall in the southeast. Caught 33 passes for 810 yards and nine touchdowns as a junior. An exceptional leaper. Owns a 6-8 in the high jump. Definite All-American material. Schools of note include Florida State, Miami and Florida.

Matt Frier (6-0, 180, 4.6) of Suwanee, Fla., is another hot property that Division 1-A powerhouses will be after. Frier snared 64 passes for over 1,000 yards as a junior, when he scored 16 touchdowns. Straight-ahead type receiver who specializes in face-smash football; he was a Golden Gloves boxer. Good hands, precise routes. Frier should be ideal for a controlled-passing team. Schools of note include Florida, Florida State, Clemson, UCLA, Alabama and Georgia.

Also worth noting is Andre Booker (6-2, 175, 4.5) of Sarasota. This youngster may have as much physical talent as any of the above-mentioned Floridians. If his grades come along okay, expect a huge chase for Booker. He is a big play waiting to happen.

Speaking of big, Florida tight ends are just that. Marvin Ferrell (6-4, 235, 4.8) of Jacksonville should be an All-American. Just plain devastating. Schools of note include Auburn, Michigan State, Clemson, Penn State, Notre Dame, Georgia Tech, UCLA, Miami, Florida State. That should say it all.

In Louisiana, Brad Banta (6-5, 230, 4.8) of Baton Rouge University has plenty of supporters who will contend he is the nation's best tight end. Very tough player who has averaged over 18 yards per catch, snaring 39 passes last year and 22 as a sophomore. Great explosiveness. Schools of note include Texas A&M, Florida State, Florida, Colorado, UCLA, North Carolina, Georgia, Notre Dame and Louisiana State.

There are almost too many good receivers in the South, so here's a quick rundown of other studs: Pedro Cherry (6-2, 200, 4.5) of Windsor Bertie, N.C.; Julius Reese (6-3, 200, 4.5) of Winston Salem, N.C.; and Wes-

ley Jacob (6-0, 180, 4.45) of Crowley, La.

The south is loaded.

EAST

Isn't it strange that colleges out west do most of the throwing, but the best prep talent in 1988 is thousands of miles away? The only region of the country that can realistically challenge the southeast in terms of quality and quantity is the northeast.

Chip Labarca (5-10, 175, 4.5) of Toms River, N.J., is considered the top wide receiver up here, and he could slip onto a couple of All-American lists by season's end. Labarca caught over 50 passes for almost 900 yards last year. In his varsity career, he has 33 touchdowns. Only concern here is size and durability. Labarca is one smart football player. Schools of interest include Penn State, Stanford, Notre Dame, Pitt, Virginia, Rutgers, UCLA, Boston College and North Carolina.

Vance Ross caught 47 passes for over 1,000 receiving yards as a junior and has been compared to Johnny Rodgers.

Mario Henry (6-2, 190, 4.5) of Medford Lenape, N.J., is another hot item in the colonies. Last year, he caught 35 passes for a 24.6 per-reception average. And he did that for a wish-bone team. Henry has great hands and good speed. He has the potential to be an All-American, but some people aren't convinced. Schools that are include Clemson, Purdue, Penn State, UCLA, Ohio State, Arizona State and Georgia.

Ramon Trent (5-11, 175, 4.5) of East Brunswick, N.J., is considered a potential super-star, and it will only take a tad of improvement to reach

that level. Averaged almost 30 yards per reception last year. He's on the receiving end of All-American quarterback Bryan Fortay's passes, so Trent will be getting plenty of attention. With a little more attention to his grades, Trent will be a national recruit.

Tight ends in New Jersey are already being recruited nationally.

It all starts with Irv Smith (6-4, 225, 4.6) of Pemberton, N.J., who is considered by many to be the very best tight end in America. He's an excellent blocker and caught 24 passes for 480 yards and six touchdowns last fall. He's also a big-time safety, having returned three interceptions for TDs in 1987. Has it all: size, speed, hands, concentration, toughness. Schools of note include Penn State, Notre Dame, UCLA, Oklahoma, Miami, Michigan, Clemson, Syracuse, Auburn and Florida State.

It just doesn't drop off much from there; and all these kids are from Jersey.

Some say Ted Page (6-4, 235, 4.85) of Cherry Hills, N.J., is right behind Big Irv. Page is an outstanding blocker with toughness that makes him a good prospect at linebacker, too. Last year, he caught 25 passes for 420 yards and seven touchdowns. Despite his crush-kill-destroy image, Page has very soft hands. Completely open to college.

Carl Tarricone (6-4, 235, 4.7) of Lanoka Harbor, N.J., caught 42 passes last year, and he's rapidly moving up the recruiting charts. He could be a force by late fall. Tarricone didn't play football until his sophomore year, and there's talk his best years are ahead of him. They could be very good years. Schools of note include Purdue, Penn State and Rutgers.

Last but not least, Arthur Bussie (6-3, 220, 4.65) of Camden, N.J., is not only a super prospect at tight end, but some say he might be one of the best defensive ends/outside linebackers in the land. He's got a 380-pound bench and made 15 QB sacks last year. Whichever position he plays, Bussie will be awesome. Schools of note include Miami, Auburn, Florida, Clemson, Pitt and Florida State. ■

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Q: With so many I-backs this year, is there a chance the Huskers could go to a two-I-back backfield or move one (of the I-backs) to fullback like we did when Roger Craig was here? **Bret Saunders, Huntington Beach, Calif.**

A: We have added something to our offense as far as the running game is concerned. The wishbone is in our plans this season. It's not major. But it could be major. It's kind of like anything. If you start having some success and somebody doesn't line up well against it, you might end up using it a whole lot. We plan to use it some.

I was a little hesitant to use it against Texas A&M in the Kickoff Classic, with all the stunting they were doing. I was afraid of turnovers. We'd dropped the ball a couple of times and I didn't want to use high-risk plays. But we'll run some wishbone.

As for moving one of our I-backs to fullback, no we won't. We've tried Tyreese Knox there. He would be the logical guy to move to fullback. But he just didn't seem to have a lot of aptitude for the position. Tyreese just didn't seem to fit in there.

Q: I am so pleased that Reggie Cooper has done an outstanding job so far because I follow all our Louisiana players. How and when did you and your staff decide to start really recruiting hard in Louisiana? **Clinton Wallace, Shreveport, La.**

A: I think Jack Pierce, our on-the-road recruiter, was recruiting a player in Texas and felt like there were some very good players in Louisiana. So we just decided to take a shot at them. I guess we've been in the Sugar Bowl two of the last three years, and that's helped us recruit in Louisiana, too, because it meant we were around and players got to take a look at us. They play good high school football there.

Editor's Note: Among Nebraska's recruits from Louisiana have been Neil Smith, New Orleans; LeRoy Etienne, New Iberia; Reggie Cooper, Slidell; Mickey Joseph, Marrero; Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans; and David

White, New Orleans.

Q: I have heard that our top-notch offensive linemen this year — Bob Sledge, Jake Young and Doug Glaser — were not especially blue chip prospects in high school, and I was wondering if Dean Steinkuhler and Dave Rimington were highly recruited players in high school. **Randy James, O'Neill, Neb.**

A: Of our current starters in the offensive line, Bob Sledge and John Nelson were both walkons, but Doug Glaser, Jake Young and Andy Keeler were all highly regarded in high school.

Dean Steinkuhler didn't even make his all-conference team when he played at Sterling High School. Dean was a former eight-man player. Dave Rimington was heavily recruited, though, following his senior year at Omaha South.

Steinkuhler and Rimington both were scholarship recruits.

Q: It seemed like Steve Taylor just got attacked on every play against Texas A&M, but he didn't seem to freak out or really get hurt bad. Compared to some of Steve's great games, like UCLA, LSU and Missouri, how do you think he played and was it his best game ever? **Jamie McCoy, Omaha, Neb.**

A: The Kickoff Classic was one of Steve's better games. Considering the fact he was under a lot of pressure, I thought he performed very well. He was going against a very good defense, and it was the first ballgame of the year. Yes, I would say it was one of his best games. I think the Oklahoma game when Steve was a sophomore was exceptional. The Sugar Bowl game when he was a sophomore was exceptional. The UCLA game last year. . . Steve's had a lot of good games.

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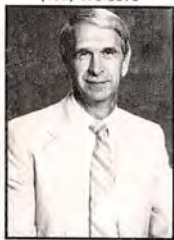
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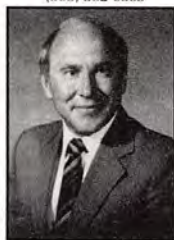
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